THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 2 January 1998

Identity of drugs case minister 'to be revealed within days'

The great secret which has been the key talking point at New Year parties - the identity of "Cabinet minister X" could be settled within days. Colin Brown and Michael Streeter say the Government is keen to get it out in the open before Parliament

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The son of "Cabinet Minister X" who was accused of drugdealing could be let off by the police with a caution within the next few days, freeing the minister to reveal his identity before the Commons returns from the New Year recess.

Colleagues of the minister, whose identity has been an open secret around Whitehall and the subject of New Year party speculation across Britain, believe it is vital that the air is cleared before he is named under the cover of parliamentary privilege.

It is feared that a rebel Labour backbencher or an opposition party MP will use Comm ir privilege to name the min are by tabling a Commons question or challenging the Prine Minister at Question Time about his position, unless he reveals his identity next

 The Government believes the issue will be settled quickly if the minister is allowed pubhely to defen his position, and his actions in taking his son to a police station after the boy was accused of selling £10-worth of cannabis to a reporter in a pub.

The minister's son is expected to be cautioned by the police and let off with a warning because of lack of evidence. Another boy who allegedly supplied the drug may be cautioned, and no action taken against the Daily Mirror journalist, Dawn Alford.

That could enable the Cabinet minister to reveal his identity without being held in contempt of court for identifying the boy. Ministers believe that the identity of their colleague should be disclosed to avoid any charge in the Commons of an aftempt at a cover-

Mr X has made it clear that he wants to disclose his iden-

tity but has been following legal advice that it was impossible for him to do so until the charges against his son have been dealt with.

The minister, who spent New Year with his family at a house in the country, was last night back in London to hear about how one of his protection officers dealt with a fracas at a neighbour's house. The Independent has learned that a police officer stationed outside Mr X's home on New Year's Eve stopped a fight at a nearby house where gatecrashers attempted to disrupt a New Year

Both the minister and his family have been feeling the intense pressure surrounding the speculation about his identity, but sources close to him last night said there was no suggestion that he would switch portfolios or resign.

The minister and his family have been under a lot of pressure, but they are bearing up. He is in a ridiculous position. But the fact is, he is prevented from saying anything by law. If that position changed, and there was no legal bar to him doing so, it would all become clear.

"He feels at the end of the day people will respect him for what he has done. He had a statement ready to release before he went down to the nick with the lad, but the lawyers, the son's solicitor and the Attorney-General all said you cannot do that," said the source.

The apparent recommendation by Scotland Yard that there should be no prosecution is based on concerns about being able to prove in court the charge of unlawful supply.

The two criteria by which prosecutors judge every case is whether first there is sufficient evidence to have a good chance of conviction, and secondly, whether it is in the public interest to go ahead with the case. If there is sufficient evi-

dence in a case of allegedly supplying drugs, even when it concerns small amounts, such as here, the prosecution will normally go ahead - unlike possession of small amounts, when a police caution is a common option. This suggests that the police in the minister's son's case. who have interviewed both the youth and Ms Alford, who bought the drugs, are unhappy about conflicts in the evidence.

You might think this Roman is stark raving mad.



But no. It's New Year's Day, the whole world over





First wave: An Italian dives into the Tiber from Rome's Cavour Bridge (top) and bather flee the sea at Scheveningen beach in The Netherlands (above left) and Whitley Bay in North-east England Protographs Luciano del Castillo EPA, Serge Ligtenberg/AR Öwen Humphreys/PA

INSIDE TODAY



'Gagging for it might not be a Henry James phrase, but it's flashed in neon over every character' FILM/I5

PLUS **Sports** Calendar 98

TODAY'S NEWS

Drugs tsar plans early education

Britain's new drugs "tsar" has told The Independent, in his first full interview since taking the job, that children as young as four should be taught about the dangers of narcotics. Keith Hellawell also says he is particularly concerned about dealers who deliberately lure young people into addiction by selling cheap heroin. Page 5

Innocence lost

A survey of more than 900 teenagers found that more than half the girls wish they had waited longer before losing their virginity. with many feeling they were pressed into it against their will. Among both sexes, curiousity was the most common reason given for having sex for the first time. Page 3

Loyalists threaten more revenge killings

The New Year's Eve attack on a Belfast pub left one man dead, five injured and Ulster's damaged peace process balancing precariously on the precipice of sectarian strife. Louise Jury and Colin Brown report on the latest threat to the peace talks.

The Loyalist Volunteer Force last night claimed responsibility for the murder of 31-yearold Eddie Treanor in a second retaliatory strike after the Maze killing of their leader. And

their statement warned: "This is not the end."

The attack by two masked men in the packed Clifton Tavern in a Catholic area of North Belfasi, shortly after 4pm on Wednesday night, intensified the pressure on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Mo Mowlam, to offer a concession to the loyalists. They are demanding a full public inquiry into the INLA assassination of Billy Wright inside the high-security Maze prison.

Billy Hutchinson, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party. which is involved in the crossparty peace talks, warned that his party would pull out before the talks recommence on 12 January, unless Ms Mowlam made concessions to the Loyalists. He said he wanted concessions to be addressed at a meeting between the PUP and

Irish ministers next Wednesday. Demands for a public inquiry were put to Ms Mowlam by the Ulster Unionist leader. David Trimble, at an angry meeting hours before the killing. She is considering the appeal and now might find the pressure for some concession to the loyalists too great to resist.

The pressure was intensified hy the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. Andrew Mackay, who called for the planned internal inquiry into security at the Maze to be started imme-

widened.

The PUP is one of the parties which has expressed concern that the process has not been "even-handed" between Hutchinson said that problem had to be addressed. "It would

alist murders since Billy Wright was killed on Saturday. The Loyalist Volunteer Force car- Radio 4's Today programme, he ried out an attack on a crowd- blamed the British Govern-

diately and for its remit to be Wright's death, killing doorman Seamus Dillon, 45. It claimed responsibility for that attack.

The threat to the peace process is also increased by the risk that the lovalist ceasefire Unionists and republicans. Mr could end. Reports in Belfast suggest that when the prisoners released from the Maze for he my opinion that if they don't Christmas return to prison todeal with that on 12 January, the day, the UDA inmates will vote PUP will be missing from the on whether to abandon the ceasefire. David Ervine, of the Fears are growing that the Ulster Progressive Unionist parrepublicans will now feel oblig- ty which has links to the UVF. ed to retaliate for the two loy- admitted there were people

who wanted the ceasefire to end. In an interview with BBC ed hotel within hours of ment. "At the moment we're seeing confidence building measures, concessions, doled out like sweeties, outside the process. They should be housed within the process."

John Hume, the SDLP leader, said the object of the latest killings was to derail the talks. "That should strengthen the will not only of all the political parties but of the vast majority of people not to be knocked off course and to remain firmly committed to reaching agreement in a totally peaceful atmosphere."

Gerry Kelly, who is on the Sinn Fein team in the multi-party talks, condemned the pub atprocess is shattered."

TELEVISION Page 23 CROSSWORDS Pages 22, 24 WEATHER Page 2

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk



SEE 17. BE AMAZED. AND THEN SEE IT AGAIN. FROM PAUL VERHOEVER THE BIRECTOR OF ROBOCOP AND TOTAL RECALL STARTS TODAY AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTBY

X COLUMN ONE

Eyes down for great staff lootery draw

Lots of companies carry out spot checks to make sure their staff are not going home with the profits in their pockets. Now one chain of stores has decided to go a step further and introduce an element of fun into the process. Instead of the dull old routine of lining up to have their bags checked. staff will be able to pick coloured balls out of a bag to determine which lucky person will be the subject of a random search before going home.

Yes, it's the National Lootery and it could be you. The searches were introduced at Hobby Craft toy and model superstores nationwide yesterday and will be carried out by security staff or man-

Once the store has closed for the day, staff will be required to form an orderly queue as the balls are selected one by one. A green ball allows the employee to go straight home without undergoing a search, a yellow one means an on the spot bag check, and red hits the jackpot - a search of the person's locker, bag and car.

The scheme was revealed to staff in an internal memo, which while stressing there was "no problem in this store" read: "We have been requested by head office to carry out random searches. As I do not wish to embarrass any member of staff by singling them out I have decided that we should work the following system."

Once the ball has been selected and the area of the search decided, the duty manager then has the choice of searching either all or part of

The memo ends on the somewhat hopeful note: "I hope that I can rely on your co-operation to make this as painless for everyone as possible."

Leader, letters

Comment

Obituaries

Business

Kate Watson-Smyth

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Search for mother who abandoned baby

Shipping news: John Brown, 96, who led the design team at the Clyde yard that built the royal yacht Britannia in the 1950s, yesterday called for her to be scuttled to bring her life to a dignified end. The Government is considering two bids to base the yacht in Manchester or Edinburgh but Mr Brown said no commercial venture could preserve her properly.

Photograph: PA

Police yesterday issued an appeal for help to find a been found fit and healthy, and that's good news for mother who abandoned a new-born baby boy on New Year's Eve.

PEOPLE

The child is just three days old and was discovered lying on a pavement in an alleyway behind garages in Leyton, east London. Doctors who are caring for the baby at Whipps Cross Hospital in east London, dubbed him "Robert Alan" after the two ambulancemen who picked him up.

The infant, who is mixed race, was wrapped in a patterned shawl and dressed only in a pale green sleep suit. He still had a plastic yellow umbilical clip attached, which police believe has come from a local hospital or midwife.

They issued an urgent appeal for the mother to come forward or anyone who knew her to contact

Detective Inspector Phil Jones, of Leyton CID, said: "We are anxious to reunite the baby with its

the New Year.

"We have checked all hospitals in the area in a bid to trace the mother but to no avail. We believe the baby could have been born in a hospital or by a midwife at home as the clip used to tie the umbilical cord was a type only available to medical staff."

The baby, who weighs 7lb 11oz, was heard crying by a man on his way to buy a lottery ticket. Dr Iain Macintosh of Whipps Cross Hospital said: "It could be that the baby was born in a hospital or by medical staff at home. The child was in good con-

dition, he was relatively warm and had probably only been out in the cold for about half an hour. It seems he had been well cared for. "It is vital that the baby's mother comes forward

and I am worried about her mental state."

Mr Jones said: "This is a beautiful baby boy who needs his mum. Let us make this a happy New Year mother. I am particularly pleased that the baby has for both mother and child by reuniting them."

UPDATE

HEALTH

NHS staff shortages hit 10,000

The NHS is short of nearly 10,000 doctors and nurses, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday. Dr Evan Harris, the party's health spokesman, said the figures are based on Department of Health releases and figures gathered by the House of Commons library. He claimed that in nine months in office, the Government had "not lifted a finger to fill these gaping holes in NHS staff shortages".

According to his findings, the NHS is short of 1,600 hospital doctors, more than 8,000 nurses, and there are nearly 1,000 GP vacancies. Cancelled operations also rose by 5 per cent between April and September. Dr Harris said: "These new figures show that the NHS is facing a staffing crisis this winter. With nearly 10,000 doctors and nurses missing from wards, a record number of operations have been cancelled."

The Liberal Democrat spokesman said Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, tried to paint a picture of cooperating within the NHS

and treatment for all "but without the staff he is wasting his breath". The Liberal Democrats want an increase in the number of medical and nursing students and public funding to pay for them, plus incentives for medical graduates to stay in the NHS and for students to go into nursing.

INFANTS

Tests show breast milk is best

Babies who are breast fed and not given solid food too early turn out leaner, less prone to lung problems and with lower blood pressure, says research published yesterday in the British Medical Journal. The study of 545 children aged six to 10 in Dundee strongly confirmed the health benefits of mother's milk and infant feeding guidelines.

The research team, led by Dr Stewart Forsyth at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee, found the probability of having respiratory illness was 17 per cent for children who were exclusively breast fed for at least 15 weeks. The risk rose to 32.2 per cent for wholly bottle fed babies. Solid feeding before 15 weeks was associated with an increased likelihood of wheeze in childhood and greater body fat and weight.

Current guidelines recommend that babies are exclusively breast fed for the first four months of life.

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Australia (dollars)	2.43	Italy (lira)	2,830
Austria (schillings)	20.13	Japan (yen)	211.79
Belgium (francs)	59. 19	Małta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.30	Netherlands (guilders)	3.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	II.85
Denmark (kroner)	10.99	Portugal (escudos)	290.49
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Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.74
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by Chris Priestley

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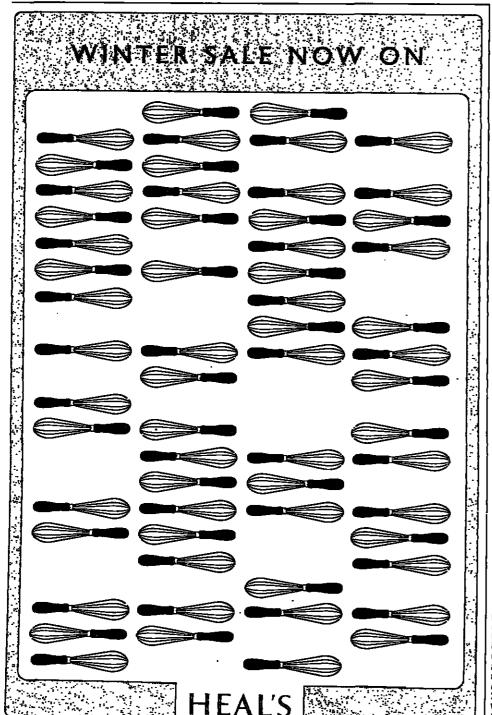
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK papers in the first helf of 1997.

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8

JACK WANNA SAY FOR THAT, MYE-NYE

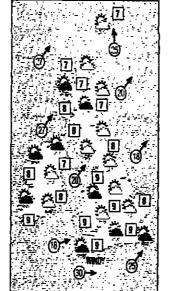




KINGS RD SW3 . TUNSGATE GUILDFORD

WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



North-east Scotland will start cloudy with rain, but the wet weather will become confined to the Northern Isles. The rest of Scotland and much of England and Wales will start overcast and misty with some pockets of thick fog and local drizzle. Many places will stay cloudy but it should brighten up a shade, although in one or two spots the early fog may be reluctant to clear. In the south-west of England and south Wales a scattering of showers will develop. heavy in places.

General summary and outlook:

It will stay reasonably mild with little or no overnight frost. More fog is likely on Sunday morning. This will slowly lift to leave a few sunny spells here and there, but it will remain on the cloudy side with a few showers in the west. Late in the day outbreaks of rain will reach south-west England, and this wet weather will extend slowly north-east on Monday. although much of Scotland and eastern England

	may not see the rain until Tuesday.										
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..15.44 to 8.46 ...15.53 to 8.0415.51 to15.39 to 8.23 _15.51 London, A1 between Watford Way. Mill Hill Cir-cus and Fiveways Corner Carriageway reduced to two lanes for long term roadworks. Until 31st May 1998.

8.13

Greater London, M1, between J6-J5. Watford area. Roadworks and a contration, with off peak and overnight lane and carmageway closures. A 50mph speed limit is also in place Unbi 22nd December. West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Loft-house (M62) A contraflow and a 50mph speed limit are in place. Until 13th July 1998.

15.59 to

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_15.55 to 8.16

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West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lott-

AA Roadwatch

Somerset, M5 J22-23 Highbridge to Bridge-water. Major madworks due to bridge repairs. A 3 mile contration is in place. Until 31st West Midlands, M6.16 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to the M6 North closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in

Air quality

SOz Good Good Good Good Good Moderal

house (M62) Contrailow and speed limit are in place (Until Jan 21 1998). Greater Manchester, A56 Old Trafford Roadworks. Until 19th January 1998. London, A3211 Blacktnars Underpass, Con-Binstol, M5 J18-19. Contration in operation across the Avoranceth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays. Until 1st January 1999.

Atlantic chart, noon today

SOz Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

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High tides

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Last quarter: Dec 21

Apology: Due to a production problem information in yesterday's weather panel was reproduced in error from an earlier date.

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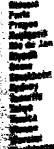
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by Chris Priestley







THE INDEPENDENT FRIDAY 2 JANUARY 1998

Curse of the Kennedys claims its latest victim

Yet again, tragedy has struck at America's version of royalty, with the death in a skiing accident in Colorado of Michael Kennedy, son of the assassinated Senator Robert Kennedy. Rupert Comwell looks at a family beset by fame and disaster in equal measure

If his surname had been Jones or Brown, his passing would have been unremarked just another skier who lost control, crashing into a tree on Wednesday as he hirtled down a slope at Aspen Mountain, injuring himself fatally. Not though if that surname belongs to a family called Kennedy. As in John F Kennedy. Then you are victim of The Curse, paying the ulti-

mate price for hubris past. The story goes back almost 60 years. when Joseph Kennedy Senior, grandson of Irish immigrants, philanderer, tycoon, bootlegger and backer of Franklin Roosevelt, realised his own political ambitions had been wrecked by his readiness to appease Hitler while ambassador to London. Instead he dedicated all his might and means, fair and foul, to make one of his children president. Joe would succeed, but at a price he could not imagine.

Already in 1941 his daughter Rosemary had been placed in a mental home after a failed lobotomy. But worse would follow in 1944 when Joseph Jr. the apple of his to make a bid for the nomination himself. father's eye and repository of his vicarious ambition, was killed in a plane crash while serving in Britain with the US Air Force. Another daughter, Kathleen, would die in France in another air crash in 1948. But the mantle of expectation had passed to his second son, John, who would use his own charm and ruthlessness - and his father's money and strings - to make it to the White House in 1961. But on 22 November

1963, Lee Harvey Oswald struck in Dallas. Less than five years later, half paralysed by an earlier stroke. Joe would watch a third son die, when Robert was shot dead in a Los Angeles hotel on 4 June 1968, just as he won the California Democratic primary to place the presidency firmly in his sights. That August, his remaining son Edward, 35-year-old Massachusetts senator, sat in Chicago with his advisers on the eve of the Democratic convention, pondering whether to use the outpouring of sympathy



Michael Kennedy (second right) flanked by members of his family at a tribute in 1992 to Robert, his father who was assassinated in 1968 Photograph: Amy Sancetta

No, they decided; wait for 1972, or better still 1976. But The Curse would not be

denied. The very next year Teddy drove a car off a bridge on the island of Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts, and ran from the scene as his staffworker Mary Jo Kopechne was drowned. His hopes of the White House were gone, and the first big dent was made in America's hitherto unquestioning romance with the Kennedys. Thereafter the misfortunes would continue. But increasingly they would be self-inflicted. For many younger Kennedys, unearned celebrity and comparisons with political ti-

tans past were burdens too heavy to bear. In 1973, Teddy's son Edward lost a leg because of cancer. That same year, Robert's son Joe was involved in a car accident which left a female passenger paralysed for life. Another son, Robert Jr. was caught with drugs while a teenager, while yet another, David, died of a drug overdose in 1984.

The episodes merely added credibility to the less flattering portrait of the earlier Kennedys emerging in a string of books and personal memoirs. These dwelt not on the glitz of Camelot, but the consuming Kennedy lusts for power and sex, and their congenital disregard for women. By 1986, Edward's son Patrick was undergoing

treatment for cocaine addiction. In 1991

his nephew William Kennedy Smith went on trial for rape. William was acquitted, but not before revelations of drinking sessions with his uncle that cemented Teddy's image as an alcohol-drenched lecher.

And thus to Michael Kennedy, who until last year was regarded as a rising political star in his own right. Then came allegations of an affair with the family's 14-

AMERICA'S TRAGIC DYNASTY

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR.: Died in plane crash during the Second World War, aged 29. KATHLEEN KENNEDY: Married William John Robert Cavendish, the Marquess of Hartington. She later died in a plane crash, aged 28.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: Assassinated in Dallas on 22 Nov 1963, aged 46. ROBERT F. KENNEDY: Assassinated in June 1968, aged 43.

DAVID KENNEDY: Son of Robert, died in 1984 of a drug overdose in a hotel after being thrown out of the family holiday home at Palm Beach MICHAEL KENNEDY: Gained notoriety for an alleged 1996 affair with his family's babysitter, was killed in a skiing accident on New Years's Eve. He was 39.

year-old babysitter and his own admission

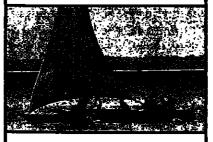
of alcoholism. Now Michael is dead - and

the family's power and prestige is at its lowest ebb in three-quarters of a century. Edward Kennedy surely will not seek a seventh full Senate term in 2000, when he will be 68. Robert's son Joseph, self-appointed standard-bearer of the younger Kennedys, but in truth a pompous Congressional lightweight, has been forced to withdraw from the state's 1998 Governors race after woman trouble of his own. JFK's son John Jr, noted for his looks rather than his intellect, is one younger Kennedy who has kept his head. Conceivably he might use his politico-celebrity magazine George as a springboard for a political career. But the pick of the bunch could be Patrick, who has overcome his cocaine problems to be a second-term Congressman for Rhode Island. But if he goes any higher, it will be thanks

TOMORROW

IN THE MAGAZINE

If it's January it must be The Outback ... top writers on 12 top destinations



TIME OUT

The lure of Zanzibar, Redford's ski heaven

NEXT WEEK

The Century in photographs From Monday for 98 days in The Eye, 98 years of historic pictures

Lunch with Conran for only £10

Peer-group pressure and why most women regret saying yes to teenage sex

the first time do so reluctantly, under duress, because they do not have the will to resist. eremy Laurance, Health Editor, examines a study which suggests

most women regret the early loss

of their virginity.

opointing – but that is almost the only

point about it on which girls and boys agree. A study of more than 900 teenagers found widely diverging perceptions between the sexes of how their first sexual encounter had occurred. Pressure from men, curiosity and drink oush many young women into

doing what they later regret. Women were more likely to report being forced - one in 14 of the total sample rising to one in four of those under 14 and less likely to say that they were "equally

than half the women thought they should have waited longer before losing their virginity. Women were more likely than men to say they were "carried away by their feelings" as the reason for having sex, while men were more likely to say they wanted to lose

their virginity. Women who had their first experience of intercourse when under 16 said the main reason was that most people of their age were doing it. Most of these had sex with an older boy but for all age groups, when

Many teenage girls having sex for The first sexual experience is invariably willing. Fewer than one in six men but more both partners were having sex for the first. Often the poor quality of their first. I wouldn't be able to handle it." time, there was less discrepancy between the sexes about the willingness with which

the encounter was entered into. The study, conducted in New Zealand and published in the British Medical Journal echoes the findings of previous British research. An Economic and Science Research Council study in 1990 found many girls who reported having been under pressure to have sex for a long time who finally submitted, usually when drunk, because

they had run out of reasons for resisting.

to merit, not myth.

In that study, the girls aged from 16 to 21, spoke eloquently of the social pressures on them. One said: "I just thought I'm sick of Mandy who is bonking all the time and me not getting nothing. So I says it's time to do it. He was being really nice and I thought I'll risk him not wanting to see me again. So I did." Another said: "It was a matter of saying 'no' lots and lots of times and then sort of going to sleep because

In the New Zealand study, the researchers from the University of Otago medical school found the average age of first intercourse was 16 in the girls (compared with 17 in Britain) and 17 in the boys. Almost a third of the women who lost their virginity before the age of 16 reported having had a sexually transmitted disease at

some point since. The authors say the results showing most women regret early intercourse "need to be considered by young people themselves".

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mise to save you money on your phone bill, or give you back double the difference. FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Man questioned over headless body

A man was being questioned last night in connection the death of a teenager whose headless body was found dumped in a bin in Blackpool.

But detectives stressed they were still hunting for whoever might have killed Christopher Hartley, 17, and dismembered his corpse.

The 29-year-old man being held in Blackpool was arrested in Salford, Greater Manchester, on Wednesday night.

Christopher, from Burnley, Lancashire, had held jobs at the Pleasure Beach funfair and on stalls in the resort. Tests have so far been unable to show how he died. His head has not been found.

Partner charged

The partner of Lisa Blunt, 23. a mother of four who was reported missing 10 days ago, appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with her murder. Vincent Shilton, 29, of Bestwood, Nottingham, was remanded in custody at a special sitting of the city's Magistrates Court. Police believe a charred body found two days ago in Bulwell, Nottingham, is that of Ms Blunt.



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Britain 'is spying on EU partners'

Britain spies on her own European partners, a former senior intelligence officer claims.

The officer, who cannot be identified, told Michael Cockerell, the maker of a television documentary: "Of course, we are all spying on each other. You need belt and braces, coliateral on collateral. It would be as vital to know where your European partners are coming from, as it was to know the orduring the Cold War."

The documentary, How to be Foreign Secretary, is to be shown on BBC 2 on Sunday evening. Its disclosures will come as a shock to pro-Europeans who would never have dreamed that Britain is allegedly involved in espionage within the EU.

During the programme, neither the present Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, nor his predecessors, denied suggestions that Britain operates a spy network in Europe.

When Mr Cook himself was asked whether Britain received intelligence from her European partners, he replied: "No I'm sorry. I can't talk about that because it is all secret information. We never discuss that."

And Douglas Hurd, now Lord Hurd, who was Foreign Secretary for nearly six years until 1995, was equally reticent. essarily the full story."

When he was asked the same question, he seemed to be taken aback. He is shown biting his lip and scratching his thigh. "I don't want to go into that. That's operational. I can't, can't, ch infa dange gs, say tsar

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can't get into that," he insisted. Lord Renwick, the former British Ambassador to Washington, was adamant that the French, for instance, would not spy on Britain. But when he was asked whether Britain would spy der of battle of Soviet forces on them, he replied: "Ah, that's a separate question. You'll have to ask, er, whoever ...

He added: "We have intelligence coverage of all really important negotiations that Britain is involved in Sometimes the information is extremely useful - sometimes you know it all already.

William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office minister under the Tories, said: "The Secret Intelligence Service is very useful to the Foreign Secretary. It can't do miracles but it does provide a most extraordinary additional source of good information.

"What you must not do is become James-Bondish about it. And their people are extremely skilful at warning you that not everything that you get on an intercept - or hear on a tape of what some foreign leader said in his bath - is nec-

Rebel Labour MEPs accuse party machine of dirty tricks

Two rebel Labour MEPs opposed to plans to reform the welfare state accused party spin doctors of dirty tricks when it appeared they had defected to the Green Party. Labour sources insisted the President of the European Parliament was convinced Ken Coates and Hugh Kerr had switched groups - opening them to immediate expulsion from the party.

Party sources this week urged said the situation was being wrongly "spun" to the media by Labour as though he had made a decision "of great moment". In fact, he said, he would like to stay in the Socialist Group "for ever and ever" if it would have him, but had been forced by European Parliament bureaucracy to consider taking up an offer from the Greens of "honorary" membership. Currently he "hadn't a clue" which group he now officially belonged to. But Labour sources accused

him of "backpeddling on a technicality. It will impress noone". They insisted the President of the European Parliament, Jose Maria Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado, Labour MEP and Socialist group leader Pauline Green and European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP) leader Wayne David were all convinced the two men had left the Socialist group and joined the Greens. Departhe two to resign before they ture from the Socialist group were expelled, but Mr Coates would automatically see the two out of the EPLP.

If they had joined the Greens, then the question of whether that has earned them automatic expulsion from Labour itself was not immediately clear. But Labour sources said they were sure pressure would now build on the two men to leave the party. Mr Coates' local party chairman said he should "do the decent thing" by standing down and fighting a by-election.

Tanker runs aground

An unladen chemical tanker has gone aground in storm conditions off Torbay, coastguards said yesterday. The 22,000-ton Santa Anna - from Greece, but registered in Panama - dragged an anchor and went aground on the seaward side of Thatcher's Rock, Devon, said Portland coastguards. The vessel, carrying a crew of 29, was still sound and in clean ballast.

The Santa Anna went aground in rough seas and

winds gusting to more than 50mph. She was carrying clean ballast, but also 200 tonnes of fuel oil and 50 tonnes of lubri-

cating oil. The Marine Pollution Control Unit had been informed and was monitoring the situation, said coastguards. There were no plans yet to take any of the crew off the vessel.

The crew are understood to be Spanish, and the boat had been moored in Torbay.

DAILY POEM

Self portrait with National Lottery winnings after a Roll-Over Jackpot

By Simon Armitage

Numbers, there on the screen, were the self-same the date of my birth expressed as a sum, the rate of my heart while perfectly calm. my height in feet, my weight to the nearest stone. the teeth in my head, the women I've known.

Stark-bollock-naked except for a hat, sunk to the waist in a slag-heap of cash, I'm rolling a joint with a fifty-pound note to blow nought after nought in rings of smoke.

The artist breaks off from his easel for a piss. A mirror on the wall, face on, gives back me in the pink, in paint, and me in flesh.

It's hard to tell the fraction from the whole, think: which makes up which, what gives, if that divides by this, or this by that, or that by this.

This week's poems come from the five volumes shortlisted for the 1997 Whithread Poetry Award. The winner will be announced next Tuesday, 6 January, along with the other Whitbread winners for biography, fiction and first novels. Simon Armitage's poem is taken from his CloudCuckooLand (Faber,

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5/DRUG ABUSE

Teach infants the danger of drugs, says new 'tsar' vas asked the same e seemed to be tak. ie is shown niong ha atching his thigh

Children as young as four should be taught about the dangers of narcotics, says the new drugs "tsar" in his first full interview. Joson Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, hears Keith Hellawell's plans

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The problem of dealers who deliberate lure young people into addiction by selling them cheap heroin is among the new drugs tsar's most pressing concerns.

for a new national drugs

strategy for the

millennium.

Keith Hellawell, 55, who takes over the post as UK Anti-drugs Co-ordinator on Monday, also wants more education in schools to tell children about the consequences of taking illegal substances.

He told The Independent: "Some work should start as early as four.

"There are some young people who begin primary school who have a drug addict and regular drug taker in their family. [They] have a substantial knowledge of drugs and their effects at the age of four.

"There are others at nine years who do not know the first thing about drugs.

"It's because of that sort of complexity that we cannot give a blanket treatment.

We are now starting to see that there's a need for young people to understand the effects of drugs on their bodies at an early age." he added.

He said he was surprised at the naivety of some children he had spoken to, citing the example of a recent visit to two schools in which pupils thought it was legal to take drugs such as cannabis and ecstasy.

He argued that a better understanding could help children

"delay experimentation with

Considered a controversial, but forward thinking person. Mr Hellawell, currently the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, will be aided by his

deputy, Michael Trace, 36, currently Director of the Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners' Trust, and a staff of just six. The drug chief will have direct access to the Prime Minister but no new money.

After 36 years as a policeman,

start to his new £102,000- a-year job. Last month he met ministers to present preliminary findings about government spending on drugs. He plans to propose a national drugs strategy in April. "I felt it was important we had something to take forward Mr Hellawell has made a flying into the millennium.

"I'm not going to come out with motherhood and apple pie statements. It will be sharp and realistic and objective. You have got to deliver."

It will be followed in about a year with targets for agencies and departments. He added: "The question is,

ment. He said future strategies should include targeting homes, schools, colleges, and work and leisure places.

One of his greatest con-

Keith Heliaweil: 'Dealers like heroin because young people get addicted to it relatively quickly, get hooked and keep coming back for more'

Photograph: David Rose

cerns is the rise in the popularity and availability of heroin.

"It's becoming the drug of the first choice among many young people and the cost in many of our cities is sometimes lower than cannabis, ecstasy and LSD," he said. "The dealers like heroin because young people get addicted to it relatively quickly, get hooked and keep coming back for more."

Mr Hellawell also wants to examine the expansion of the use of treatment centres and counselling for addicts.

He believes addictive drugs are one of the biggest problems. "In the first instance we need to what is the vision? Where do we look at areas where we can have want to go in five or ten years the biggest pay-off - with crack time?" And he called for a cocaine and heroin users."

"holistic" approach to treat-But, dismissing any suggestion that he supports the decriminalisation of drugs, he stressed: "This does not mean we should ignore other areas such as cannabis and eestasy use."

Seizures double in a year as traffickers turn to Channel tunnel

The Channel tunnel is the fastest growing route for drug trafficking, unpublished figures reveal. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, talks to customs officers about changing tactics and the new threat.

Seizures of drugs being smuggled under the Channel have doubled in the past year, statistics obtained by The Independent reveal.

The amount of cocaine found on vehicles being brought to Britain through the tunnel has leapt sevenfold in the past 12 months, more than four times as much heroin has been confiscated and three times

drugs snatched has doubled since 1996 to about £16.8m-worth at street prices in 1997.

Customs officers say that drug traffickers are increasingly targeting the tunnel. The undersea network is considered to have several advantages for the smugglers including hiding the origin of the couriers as everyone comes through France.

Among the recent trends noticed by Customs are an increase in age of the couriers - a 75-year-old Dutchman was found with 7.5kg of cocaine hidden in his caravan - and traffickers pretending to be busi-The smugglers are also becoming more

ingenious about hiding their illegal goods. For example in October 7kg of cocaine was found hidden in the front seat passenger's emergency airbag and a Brazilian woman the quantity of cannabis. The value of the hid cocaine in plaster casts on her legs.

Ever since the tunnel was opened in November 1994 there has been fear that it would become a major route for drug trafficking. Andrew Filmer, of the Customs and Excise's Tourist Anti Smuggling division at Coquelles, near Calais, which checks people with vehicles entering Britain, said: We're finding a lot more Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine, which is reflecting the increase demand. There's growing confidence about using the tunnel to bring in drugs. There's also more

Bob Arthurs, head of Customs and Excise at Waterloo International, which deals with foot passengers on the Eurostar, said couriers swallowing packages of excaine or hiding them inside their body was still a popular method of smuggling at the mo-

smugglers dressing up as businessmen as

steadily going up, people are becoming more aware of the advantage of Eurostar and how it can help lose their identity."

For example traffickers from South American countries that have drug connections are attempt to disguise where they have come from by travelling through several countries. A typical route is from Brazil to Portugal, Spain and then France, Most of the smugglers, however, are British. Dutch, and German.

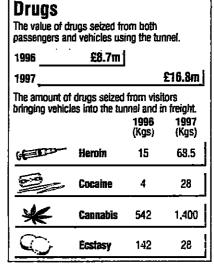
Among the smugglers recently caught include a man from Amsterdam who was found to have swallowed 91 packages of cocaine wrapped in condoms, which took a week to pass through his body. He later got six years in jail.

On 20 December, a 51-year-old German woman was stopped in Waterloo. Inside the

ment. "The numbers and amounts are lining of her suitcase officers found 4.5kg of heroin, worth about £500,000, and the largest ever haul at the station. The narcotics are believed to be from Turkey and were on their way to one of the Turkish drug families in north London.

> The street value of the drugs seizure by British customs officers based at Coquelles near Calais, have increased from £7.7m in 1996 to at least £15.1m this year. The number of commercial or large seizures rose from 16 to 27, pornography finds rose from 22 to 49 and firearms and illegal weapons went up from five to 11.

> Heroin showed the biggest leap from 15kg to 68.5kg, cocaine rose from 4kg to 28kg, cannabis was 542kg last year, this year it was 1,400 kg, while the amount of eestasy fell from 142kg to 28kg, although the 1996 total included one seizure of 141kg.



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Hereditary peers could stand as MPs

The historic bar on hereditary peers sitting in the Commons is likely to be lifted under the Government's reforms for the House of Lords. As a Cabinet committee gets down to business, Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says hereditary peers could be allowed to stand for election for the first

Hereditary peers who are barred from voting at general elections could be allowed to stand for seats in the House of Commons under the Government's plans for reform of the House of Lords.

Cabinet sources have told The Independent that it is likely that having deprived the hered-

itary of their voting rights as part of the reform to the House of Lords, they should be able to stand for the House of Commons and vote for the first time in elections.

Peers are barred from voting and standing for election to the Commons, along with the insane and criminals, because they are represented in the House of Lords. But when they cease to be eligible to vote in the Lords, the hereditary peers would have no representation, unless a change in the law was allowed.

A Cabinet source said: "The reason that peers are disqualified from standing in elections is because they already have power in the Lords. There are various suggestions being made about the hereditaries, about whether they could lose their voting rights but keep their speaking rights.

"That would leave the hereditary peers in a sort of lim-



Marquess of Bath (left) and Tony Benn both support giving the vote to peers barred from voting in the Lords

bo. It would be logical to stay Ancram, he is the heir to the tithey should be allowed to vote and stand for elections to the Commons if they lose their rights to vote in the House of

Michael Ancram, the Conservative spokesman on constitutional affairs, could be directly effected. As the Earl of

tle of the Marquess of Lothian and has told friends that if he inherited the title he would still wish to stand in the Commons. There should be a change in the law," he said.

Under the present rules, he would have to renounce his peerage to do so, but he would

be ready to amend the legislation, if necessary, to make sure that the reform of the Lords enables hereditary peers to stand for the Commons.

The Marquess of Bath. a supporter of Lords reform and a Liberal Democrat peer with a hereditary title dating back to 1789, said it would be a logical move. "I don't see myself standing now. My feeling is that there is no justification for hereditary peers in the House of Lords but it would be logical to allow them to stand for the Commons."

It would also avoid embarrassing dilemmas for MPs who inherit titles. Tony Benn MP, who changed the law to renounce his title as Viscount Stansgate for his lifetime, also saw the logic of allowing hereditary peers to stand for the Commons, when they lose their voting rights in the Lords.

Cabinet policy papers are being prepared and ministerial sources said the Cabinet

committee would be getting down to business early in the New Year. Changes would be made before the end of the Parliament, in spite of the packed list of Government business, said the source. But left-wingers are likely to demand more radical changes to make the Lords an elected chamber.

Mr Benn was on Wednesday getting his teeth into the Prime Minister's powers of patronage in the wake of the New Year Honours List. He said the last 10 prime ministers had appointed 900 life peers. "Anyone who is hoping for a peerage will say nothing and do nothing that might upset the Prime Minis-

ter," he said on BBC radio. "When you get patronage without suggesting anything improper - it is corrupt. I have known civil servants recommending businessmen for some honour and then when they retired, they got a job on the board," he said.



Success story: Jobeda Ali

Photograph: Geoff Robinson

How to succeed in a white world: one woman's tale

do not usually expect to go to Cambridge University. She is the daughter of a mother who can neither read nor write, a secondgeneration immigrant from Bangladesh, and was educated at east London state schools. Judith Judd, Education Editor, explains how she did it.

Jobeda Ali has overcome most types of disadvantage on the way to her upper second class degree at Trinity College, Cambridge. When she applied to Cambridge four years ago, she was told she needed three grade Bs at A-level to secure her place - unlike most of her fellow applicants who were told they needed either two or three As.

The offer was made under a special entry scheme for disadvantaged pupils. But it proved unnecessary. Jobeda gained three grade As.

Four years on, Jobeda has a new job as administrator of the group to encourage ethnic minority applicants (Geema) to the university. She is clear about her role. "I'm not interested in statistics. My aim is to ensure that black and Asian students can see enough black and Asian faces to feel comfortable here."

She remembers vividly her first invitation to coffee on her first day at Cambridge. She expected to walk in and socialise in her normal way but found herself tongue-tied. "It took me two weeks to work out what was wrong. I had never before been in a room where every other person was white."

The gap between Cambridge and some ethnic minority groups is hard for outsiders to grasp, she says. Her mother, who cannot read, write, or speak English, had never heard of Cambridge and didn't want her daughter to go. "Her reaction was 'why don't you stay in Lon-

One of the big differences between a public schoolboy from Eton who comes to Cambridge and herself, she says, is the level of parental interest. "It wasn't just the case that I had no one to help with my maths homework. No one even asked me what I had done at school."

If she tried to read, her mother took away the book and said she should be doing something more useful. Even now, her mother is looking out for a suitable husband for her.

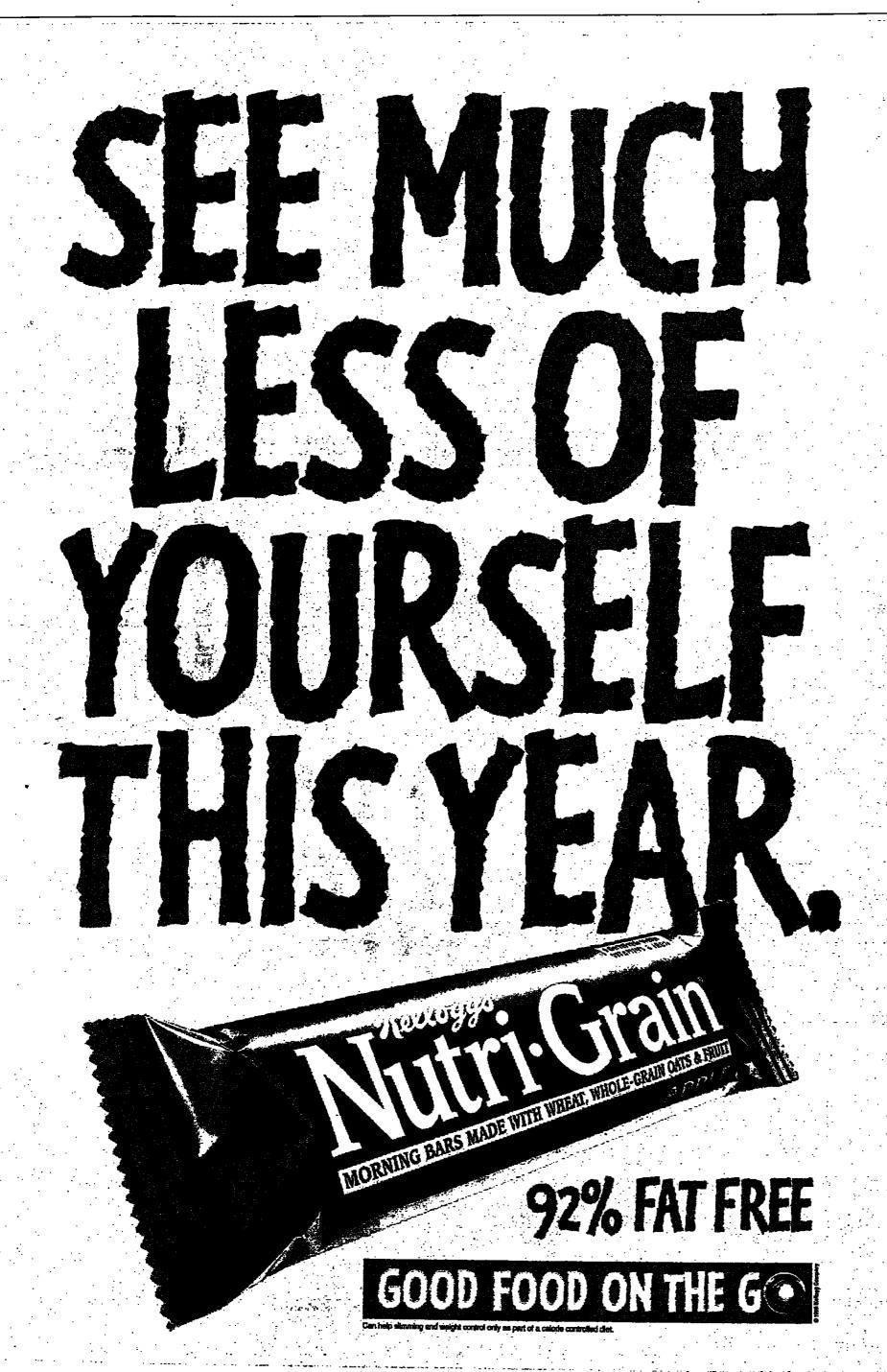
Secretly, Jobeda says, she had always wanted to try for Oxbridge, though she scarcely dared admit it to herself. When students from the group she now runs came to Tower Hamlets College where she was doing her A-levels, she was suddenly given the confidence to apply.

Her present job is to run a programme of events to persuade people like her to feel the same way. She also has plans for student-shadowing to show ethnic minority pupils a day in the life of a Cambridge students. A new video and prospectus are being sent out.

For a decade, the university's message to anxious ethnic minority and state school students has been: the Brideshead image is wrong; there are plenty of people like you here.

Jobeda argues that, of course, black and Asian people need to feel comfortable at Cambridge "but that doesn't mean they all want to rush off to dinner at the Indian Society. Some want the traditional things. I love punting. I love strawberries and cham-

pagne and I love May balls." She know that raising the proportion of black and Asian students - currently 11 per cent - will not be easy. "Take a white public school boy and myself. We both have an upper second from Trinity. We both go for the same job. We appear to be equal. But we are not. I am four times better than he is. I have the same degree but I have overcome the gender barrier, the class barrier and the race barrier."



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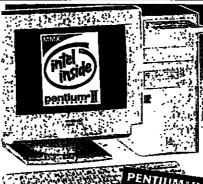
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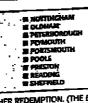
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Come right in, US tells baseball refugee

A former Cuban baseball star was cleared to enter America yesterday after escaping from Cuba by boat. Five of his fellow passengers are unlikely to be so lucky. Mary Dejevsky asks if the US operates double standards when offering asylum to Cubans.

Few would argue that Orlando Hernandez did not constitute a special case. "El Duque" (the Duke), was a star pitcher for Cuba's national baseball team. one of Cuba's élite. But that came to an end two years ago, when his younger brother, Livan, also a baseball star, defected to the United States.

While Livan rose to stardom in his adopted country, helping the outsiders, the Florida Marlins, to victory in the 1997 World Series, Orlando was banned from his national team. harassed by officials and blamed for his brother's escape.

Early on 26 December, Orlando, his girlfriend, Noris Bosch, and six others left Cuba in a small sailing boat, hoping

Land of the Free

A ban on smoking in California bars is not

the only lifestyle-cramping law that went

onto the statute book of American states

cure their parents' permission before hav-

ing any part of their body pierced, while

wailing car alarms will make drivers' cars

liable to be towed away after 20 minutes,

injure a cat will have to report the accident

and face a fine of up to \$100 for not do-

ing so. The change gives cats parity with

dogs. Also in New York, the fines on own-

ers of dogs that bark too loudly or too long

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

In New York state, drivers who kill or

Under-18s in California will have to se-

cracks down

with the New Year.

rather than 45 at present.

have been trebled - to \$525.



Orlando Hernandez: 'Close ties' to the United States

to reach Florida. But the boat started to take on water and they were forced to land on the remote Anguilla Cay on the fringe of the Bahamas. After almost four days, they were picked up by the US Coast Guard and handed over to the Bahamian authorities. By Tuesday they

were in detention in Nassau. For more than three years, US policy on Cuban "boatpeople" has been firm: they are repatriated unless they qualify for political asylum by demonstrating "well-grounded fear of persecution". The Bahamas has a similar policy.

Having failed to reach the Florida coast, Hernandez and the others were liable to be sent back. Instead, the State Department went into overdrive. Officials cited "special circumstances" the only question was which would guarantee Hernandez's speediest entry into the US while setting fewest precedents.

A State Department spokesman, James Foley, spoke of his "close ties to the United States", the status of his brother as "a well-known sports figure" and the fact that "he has suffered already reprisals in Cuba as a result of his brother's defection". The US took "very seriously", said Mr Foley, Hernandez's "strong fear of additional and increased persecution" if he were sent back to Cuba.

Hernandez received a visit from the US ambassador in Nassau, representatives of Florida-based emigré organisations, and a leading Cuban emigré sports agent. Within 36 hours, he, his girlfriend and a second baseball player in the boat had been granted permission to enter the US.

Their five companions, however, are still in detention in Nassau. They are likely to be deported.

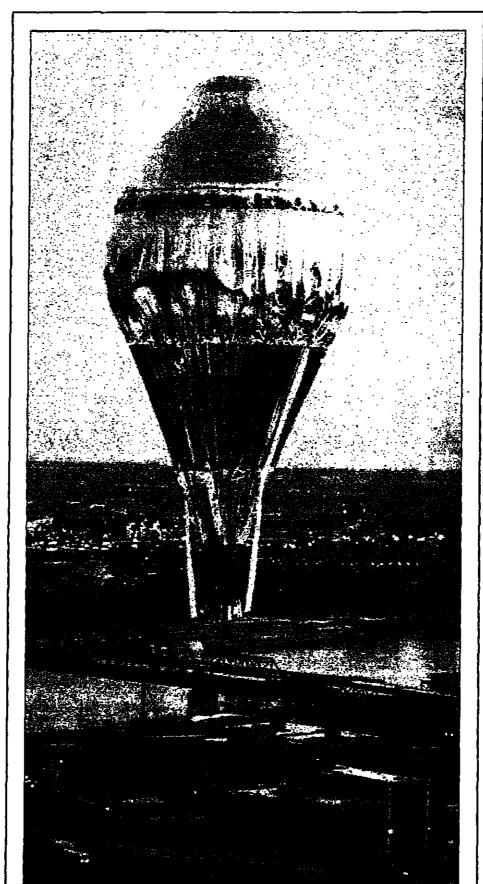
Kenya opposition claim Moi cheated

Kenya's main opposition parties yesterday accused President Daniel arap Moi of using fraud to win the election after early results pointed to a fifth term. But the opposition party leaders said they would reject such a result.

Kenyan television reported that unoffical counts from 60 per cent of the seats showed Mr Moi had won 1,466,868 votes against 1,0091,869 for his nearest rival, Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party.

Mr Moi needs 25 per cent of the vote in five of Kenya's eight provinces to win, failing which he will face a run-off against the second-placed candiate. The early results also suggest that Mr Moi has increased his vote since the last elections in 1982.

- Ed O'Loughlin, Nairobi



Into the blue: Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett lifting off from Busch stadium in St Louis, Missouri, this week as he began his attempt to fly a hot-air balloon non-stop around the world Photograph: AP/St Louis Post-Dispatch

Israeli foreign minister to quit

The Israeli foreign minister, the Knesset. But a handful of op-David Levy, announced last night that he was resigning. He said the five MPs of his Gesher party would vote against Benjamin Netanyahu's government on the 1998 budget.

Mr Levy said he would resign immediately after the Gesher five voted against the budget. This left open a slim possibility that Mr Netanyahu might yield at the last minute to the foreign minister's pressure. Officials in the Prime Minister's office claimed, however, that the financial cost would be too high.

"This is a government which is on a flight to nowhere," Mr Levy said. The foreign minister's brother, Maxim Levy, Gesher's parliamentary whip, insisted they were not bluffing If Gesher joins the opposition.

it would reduce Mr Netanyahu's majority to a maximum of six in

ponents of the Oslo agreement in the Prime Minister's own Likud are also threatening to withhold support. Failure to pass the budget would precipitate elections.

Gesher projects itself as the champion of the underprivileged Israelis of Afro-Asian origin. Mr Levy had demanded that the government invest in a recovery programme for the depressed areas. Mr Netanyahu turned him down.

'Mr Levy is the government's most outspoken supporter of West Bank withdrawals. His departure would tilt the balance to the right and highlight the question mark against Mr Netanyahu's capacity to push through the "generous" evacuation that both the Americans and Palestinians are demanding. - Eric Silver, Jerusalem

Pol Pot 'has escaped with Chinese help'

The infamous Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has escaped from Cambodia to avoid facing an international court for his crimes against humanity, Cambodian newspapers said yes-

Pol Pot was said to have escaped with assistance from China, though the Chinese embassy in Phnom Penh denied the reports and government officials dismissed them as propaganda

— Reuters, Phnom Penh

Indian right looks set for poll victory

from opposition forces.

The pro-government newspaper Koh Santepheap said Pol Pot had escaped from the rebels' jungle base of Anlong Veng. The newspaper said the Khmer Rouge defence chief Ta Mok had met Chinese diplomats at about the time of the escape. The opposition newspaper Udom Kateak said the Chinese wanted Pol Pot to avoid trial because they had backed his 1975-79 "killing fields" regime.

India will hold elections over four days beginning 16 February, the chief election commissioner said yesterday.

Early opinion surveys have indicated the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party will win the most seats, though no party is expected to get a majority. The BJP was to launch its campaign later yesterday with a rally in Bombay.

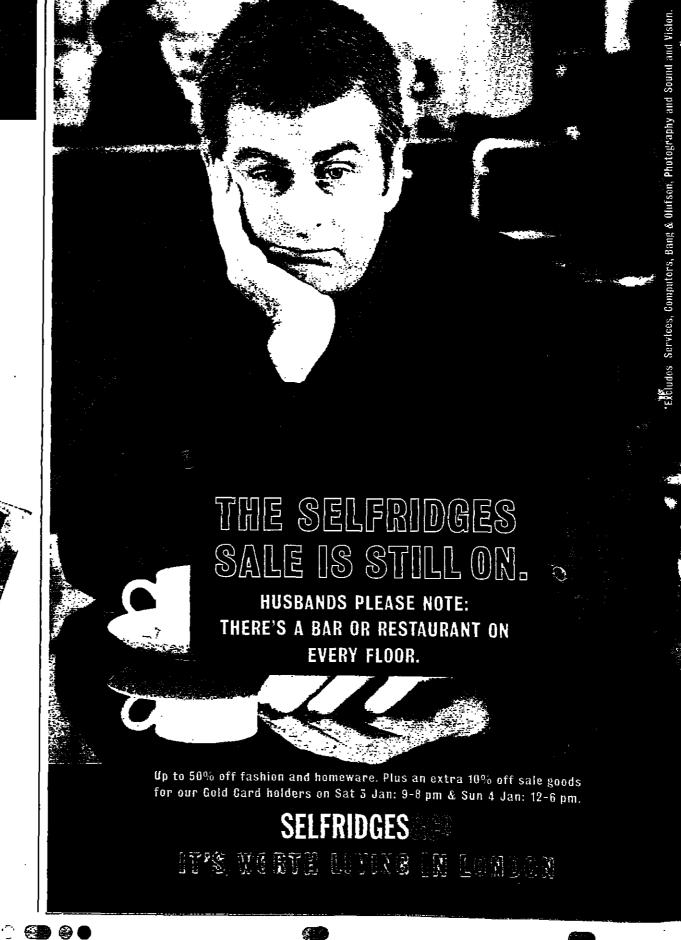
No party won a majority in the last elections in May 1996, and ideological differences and competing ambitions kept the main blocs from working together. New voting had to be called three years early after the Congress Party withdrew support from the governing United Front coalition, accusing one of its members of supporting Sri Lankan guerrillas linked to the 1991 assassination of Congress leader and former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

- AP New Delhi









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r Levy had demand e government integ my programme for the lareas. Mr Netanjahi TO COW'T y is the government's spoken supporter of k withdrawals, His de sould tilt the balance ht and nighlight the mark agains: Mr Ne s capacin to push be generous com t both the American mans are demanding

in right s set for victory

For Christmas this year,

Luigi Scalfaro decided to

Brigades terrorist group

in the 1970s. The gesture

encourage parliament to

Italy's President Oscar

pardon six people

was intended to

declare a general

has an interest in

amnesty for terrorist

offences. Andrew Gumbel

explains why everyone

forgetting one of the

Italy's post-war history.

Six months ago, the radical

left-wing political science pro-

fessor Toni Negri made an

extraordinary decision. After 14

years living comfortably in Paris

as a fugitive from Ital-

ian justice, he decided

to come home and face

a 30-year jail sentence.

His crime, at least ac-

cording to the charge

sheet, was inciting his

students at Padua Uni-

versity to terrorist vio-

lence back in the 1970s.

always denied the

charges, and his case has provoked strong

criticism from Amnesty

international and oth-

ers. But he chose to go

to jail to become a liv-

ing symbol of Italy's

need to come to terms

with the multiple injustices of the terrorist pe-

nod. He declared he

was willing to admit he had made mistakes -

even if they were not

criminal ones - and

hoped the Italian state

would be magnanimous

enough to do likewise

and declare an

Six months on, Pro-

fessor Negri is still in

Rebibbia prison in

Rome, but the debate

has taken on greater ur-

gency. A parliamentary

committee has drafted

a law that would trim

jail sentences for ter-

rorist offences far

enough to free most of

the 180-odd people still

being punished for

their crimes. Politicians

on all sides have spoken

of the need to put the

dark days of the late

1970s behind them and

no longer pose a threat.

acknowledge that the terrorists

And now President Scalfaro

has exercised his prerogative to

pardon six minor brigatisti -

none responsible for shedding

blood - still caught in the judi-

cial wringer. "It's realistic to

think," said the senior left-wing

amnesty.

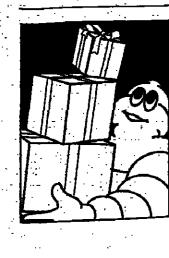
Professor Negri has

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Amnesty offers Italy chance to forget its years of terror



Terrorist generation: Red Brigades members Garbriella Mariani and Adriana Faranda on trial in connection with Aldo Moro's kidnapping in 1978 (they are now free after serving 12 years). Right: the discovery of Moro's body

by the year 2000 our country will have closed its accounts with the

Years of Lead." But why should Italy consider pardoning a generation of terrorists that, from 1969 to 1981, blew up banks and railway stations, killed dozens of policemen, magistrates and journalists, and carried out the audacious kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the leader of the Christian Democrat party? Part of the reason is a

cultural reflex: the desire not to exacerbate social divisions through revenge, but rather to adhere to the Catholic tradition of forgiveness (interestingly the Italian word being used for the terrorist amnesty, indulto, is by origin a Church term referring to a special dispensation from the tenets of canon law).

Part of the reason is an acknowledgement that terrorists, lowed Moro to be killed rather

DECADE OF VIOLENCE

The 1970s are known as Italy's Years of Lead a reference not only to the bullets that flew with alarming regularity, but also to the oppressive atmosphere that weighed down the whole country. These are some of the key events of those years:

December 1969: Bomb destroys the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura in Piazza Fontana in Milan, killing 16 people. Although initially blamed on the left, this was the work of rightwingers intended to scare restive factory workers out of launching a Communist revolution.

1974: Bomb kills eight at a demonstration in Brescia: later in the year a train bombing in a tunnel near Bologna kills 12 more. Both are the work of right-wingers.

1976: Red Brigades commit first murder, of Genoa state prosecutor Francesco Coco (right). Nearly 100 more killings follow over the next four



1978: Red Brigades kidnap Aldo Moro, architect of the stillborn 'historic compromise' with the Communists, near his home and kill his bodyguards. After a tense 55 days, his corpse is found in the back of a car at a spot equidistant from the Rome headquarters of the Christian Democrat and the Communist

1980: Right-wing bomb kills 85 at Bologna rallway station. The same year, captured Red Brigades members begin to co-operate with the police, leading to the disbandment of the group and the end of the Years of Lead.

> particularly the left-wing variety, were treated far more, through parliament requires a harshly by the judicial system than common criminals would have been for similar offences; in other words, there was an explicit political element to their punishment.

But perhaps the most compelling, if least advertised, reason to put the events of the 1970s to rest is the culture of bad faith, hatred, conspiracy and violence that enveloped the entire country during the period - leading to subversive acts committed not only by a handful of political ideologues but by magistrates, politicians and intelligence officers, too. Enough scandals have emerged from the period to implicate large chunks of the state structure in illegal-

ity and violence. The first wave of bombings, murky violence of the past.

politician, Pietro Folena, "that starting with an attack on a bank in Piazza Fontana in Milan in 1969, were right-wing in inspiration and intended to counter the rising fortunes of the Communist Party. Evidence has emerged that parts of the political élite and secret services devised a deliberate "strategy of tension" to deter the public from voting the Communists into power. But the precise chain of responsibilities has never been established, and even the identities of the bombers have never been ade-

> The Red Brigades and other violent leftist groups emerged as a reaction to the right-wing terrorists and to the state's cack-handed attempts to blame the early bombings on left-wing anarchists. There are suspicions that parts of the Christian Democrat party al-

quately proven.

than negotiating for his release because they did not approve of his policy of rapprochement with the Communists.

The murkiness also spread into the judicial system. Professor Negri is just one celebrated case of suspected miscarriage of justice. Three left-wing activists in jail for the murder of a Milan police officer in the early 1970s are also widely believed to be innocent, victims of a judicial process that has been likened to the

Spanish Inquisition. Because of Italy's system of plea-bargaining, a number of Red Brigades murderers got off relatively lightly while others further down the pole of responsibility have languished in jail for years.

An amnesty is a con-

venient way of closing the lid on all of these horrors. Significantly, one of the most ardent champions of the indulto is the former state president, Francesco Cossiga, a man linked to myriad scandals of state involvement in subversive acts. During the Moro kidnapping he was interior minister and thus directly responsible for the decision whether or not to negotiate with his party leader's captors.

The amnesty's passage two-thirds majority. It could be scuppered by political concerns: the party headed by the former prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, wants to link an amnesty on terrorism to an amnesty on the recent wave of corruption scandals in which Mr Berlusconi is deeply implicated. The one could easily cancel out the other.

In the wrangling, the concerns of the families of terrorism victims have gone virtually unheeded. Unlike France, Italy has no mechanism for providing compensation or any kind of state help to bereaved relatives. An amnesty may relieve a lot of troubled consciences, but nobody has yet had the courage to say sorry for the

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MONTHLY SAVER	£25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+ £1,000+ £1,000+ £5,000+ £1+ £5,000+ £1,500+ £1,000+ £5,000+ £1,000+	4.75% 4.50% 4.05% 3.50% 3.00% 2.80% 0.20% 3.65% 3.65% 3.65%	3.80% 3.60% 3.24% 2.80% 2.40% 2.24% 0.16% 2.92% 2.92% 2.88%	Three months notice required for withdrawal, and interest paid monthly. (No longer available). PREMIER TWELVE Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest annually.	£25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+ £2,000+ £500+ £100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+	5.94% 5.70% 5.32% 4.60% 4.12% 7.10% 7.10%	4.75° 4.56° 4.25° 3.68° 3.30° 5.68° 5.68°
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	f	4.445		PREMIER TESSA	£9.000+	7.25%	
D DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.46%	5.16%	(FOLLOW UP) (Issues 1 & 2)	£5,000+	6.95%	
terest paid monthly.	£50,000+	6.17%	4.94%	(No longer available).	£3.000+	6.95%	
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	£2,500+	4.60%	3.68%	CHILDRENS' ACCOUNT		3.00%	2.40
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NE YEAR OPTION BOND	£100,000+	7.10%	5.68%	FULLY PAID SHARE	£50,000+	3.15%	2.52
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terest monthly.	£25,000+	6.78%	5.43%	SELECT	£50.000+	3,20%	2.56
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BRISTOL & WEST PLC

Irish factory helps eels slither on to the menus of Europe

Cod and chips beware; Ireland is preparing a quiet revolution in seafood with the first guaranteed large-scale supplies of eel. Alan Murdoch reports.

The eerie, wriggling silhouettes of tens of thousands of dark slithery creatures have a hypnotic effect. To their patient owners at Ireland's first eel factory, who invested countless hours catching them and creating an £800,000 hi-tech habitat, the contents of the giant fibre-glass tanks inspire a mixture of pride and nervous anticipation.

A bold gamble by the new company, Aqua Arklow in County Wicklow, means 60 to 200 tonnes a year of smoked Irish eels could soon be dished up to consumers in Europe, and possibly Japan. Aided by Ireland's enterprising state fisheries body BIM (Bord lascaigh Mhara), they may also appeal to the taste buds of Irish and British

Catching them at just 0.3 grammes, Aqua Arklow feeds them up to 150 grammes, when they are ready for eating. Under a forward-thinking plan agreed with fisheries au-

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rivers a larger proportion of older, five-to 10-gramme specimens from its original catch than would normally survive in the

The aim is to reverse, in Ireland at least, a 20-year decline in European eel numbers and give Irish fishermen larger wild adult catches than the varying river supplies would allow naturally. Until now, this had thwarted the possibility of a mass market for wild eel. It is not currently possible to breed them in captivity.

In the wild, the eel faces a 50 to 84 per cent mortality rate in its early months. Able to swim forwards and backwards, it can also breathe through its skin and smell food across extraordinary distances.

They spawn in the Caribbean's warm Sargasso Sea before migrating as glass eels to European estuaries. From pigmented "elvers", they grow into yellow then silver adults, then migrate down-river and south to complete the cycle. Like most transatlantic voyagers they

suffer stress. After the ordeal of grading at the plant they need salt or baking-powder baths to recover their equilibrium.

Catching the tiny glass eels is perhaps

thorities. Aqua then returns to lakes and the hardest part of the Aqua's factory process, according to managing director Declan Duggan. Eels move only under particular tidal and weather conditions. "It might be night or day and we have to work around the tides. It's laborious; you can go for two or three trips over 200 miles without catching one. It's very hit and miss,"

Locals are fascinated. "They are always asking 'How are the eels?' If it was trout they wouldn't be so interested. But with eels it's like snails and slugs, they're almost afraid of them," he says.

Mr Duggan, 37, used expertise he learned in industrial pipe fitting and heating to good effect. Five years in planning, the sophisticated plant features computerised oxygen and ph controls and a constant 25C water temperature.

This is essential for nurturing eels to their full 16 inches in six to 18 months, compared with six to seven years in cooler, wild conditions. (Wild eels stop feeding in cold temperatures.)

After seven days of "purging" in clear water, they are transported live for smoking on the Continent. So far not one eel has been lost to disease.



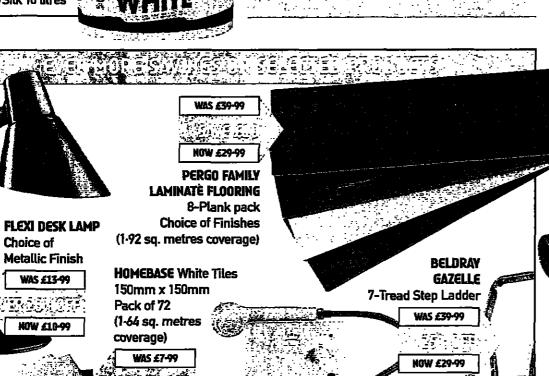
Slippery meal: Aqua Arklow hopes its eels will appeal to European tastes

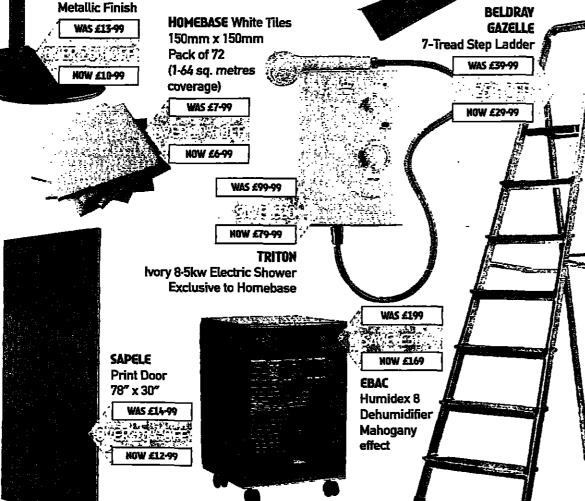
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Blair to issue millennium bug warning

Tony Blair will call on business to wake up to the "millennium bug" which could lead to computers crashing at the turn of the century. But Colin Brown, **Chief Political**

Correspondent, says the Government's own house needs to be put in order.

The Prime Minister is said to be "shocked and appalled" at the ignorance of small businesses to the threat posed by the bug and is giving the problem high priority, according to senior government sources.

faced by some firms. His planned "wake-up" call to industry and small businesses early in 1998 will drive home the message that they should make sure their computers are tested and altered to cope with the double zero date, well before the end of next year.

Mr Blair will put the computer problem high on the agenda for Britain's sixmonth presidency of the European Union, his officials said. "The Prime Minister is

determined that Britain prepares itself and leads the preparations in Europe," said the Government source.

"He is shocked and appalled at the some of the neglect of the problem. One poll showed only 55 per cent of the companies were aware of the implications," the source added.

The Prime Minister's decision to act follows several reports in The Independent of the dismay among some experts at the lack of preparation being made in Britain to enable computers to cope with the millennium.

The Government has also insisted that its own computers are being corrected in time to cope with the millennium. A spokesman for He has become alarmed the Inland Revenue denied at the potential for disaster claims by the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman. Malcolm Bruce, that its PAYE computers could crash this year. Mr Bruce said the costs for the Government of coping with the bug had escalated to £3bn.

The Government estimated it would cost £370m to deal with computers in central departments, but Mr Bruce said this did not include thousands of computers in other areas of the public sector, including the NHS and transport.

Anger at return of the body-snatchers

Body-snatching is back in fashion. Only this time the snatchers are not Burke and Hare but biotechnologists seeking to exploit the growing market in genes and diagnostic tests. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, asks whose body is it anyway?

A series of cases in which scientists have found themselves in conflict with patients over who owns tissue removed from their bodies has highlighted a growing problem that could threaten medical research, two experts in medical law have

Patients have spoken of being "violated" when their body tissue was used without their consent. In one case, John Moore, a patient in California whose tissue was transformed into a commercial cell line and patented without his knowledge or consent, complained of feeling he had been "raped".

In another case, a widow sued a Los Alamos laboratory for severe mental and emotional distress after it had removed three and half kilograms of organs from her dead husband for research.

Professors Lori Andrews of Chicago-Kent College of Law and Dorothy Nelkin of New York University say in The Lancet that scientists often see the body and its parts as impersonal objects to be used for research and commercial development, and with the advent of biotechnology human tissue has become a raw material.

"Body parts are extracted like a mineral, harvested like a crop, mined like a resource. Cells, embryos or tissue can be frozen, banked ... patented, bought or sold."

They compare the bodysnatching of the 18th century, whose most notorious practitioners were Burke and Hare who murdered individuals to sell to Dr Knox's anatomy school in Edinburgh, with the activities of scientists today. "Pathologists routinely analyse tissue samples without obtaining consent. Researchers try to commercialise tissue without sharing profits with sources. Objectifying the body enables scientists to extract, use and patent body tissue without reference to the person involved."

Professors Andrews and Nelkin say scientists risk a backlash if they continue to ignore public disquiet about what often appears to be the callous exploitation of human tissue by medical researchers.

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The writer Dea Birkett otht she had her whole pped out ahead of flien, out of the blue, told the truth er baby daughter.

s the Day List, which mundane household task (City hypoallergenic washingpowder, get tollet fixed agan) with work (hassle travel edipr to send me somewhere hot write to publisher about lactof priews, chase up unpaid exenses). The first item on the Da Last is always "pian day" (crie for "writing a list"), so as son as the list is written, I can cres out the top line. The Wek List contains more substatial work commitments; wite book review; finish chapte seven; return proofs.

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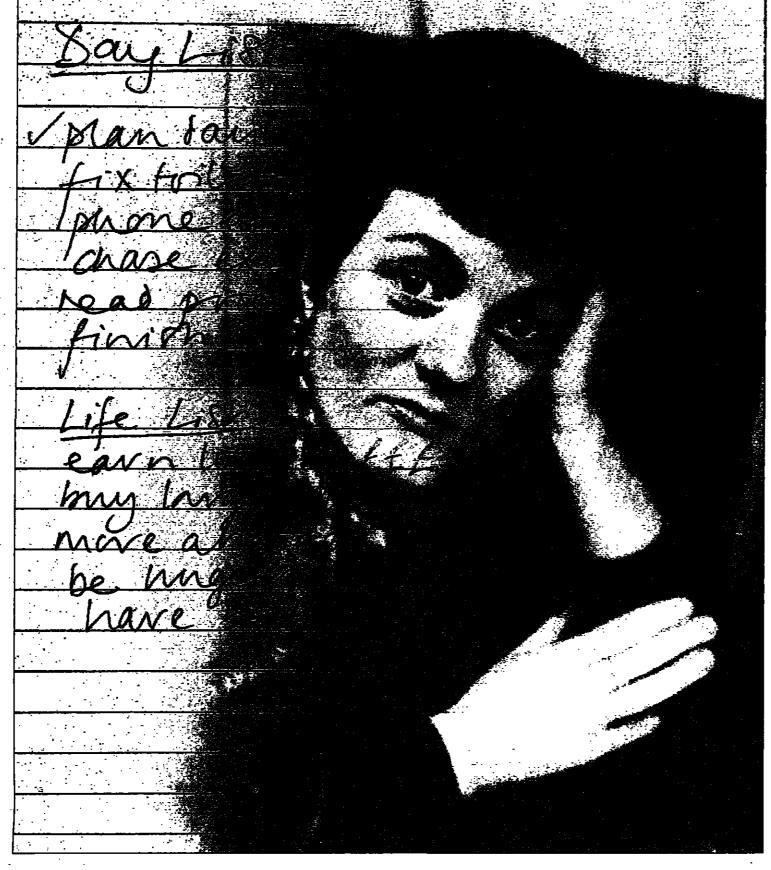
The most important list of alwas the Life List: earn loads omoney, spend half the year aroad; buy big house in centrd London; become hugely sccessful writer by 30. When 3 passed, I drew a fine blue he through that figure and wote "35"; shortly after my 3th birthday, I put "40". The Ife List was my declaration of tith in myself. I was confident aat, given time and a little bit & cheating, everything would e ticked off.

In truth, "have a baby" was ever on the Life List. But when reached my early thirties, ther women of my age were saving children, my boyfriend was certain that he wanted a child, and, once the decision was made, it happened that night. Already pregnant, I sneaked "have a baby" on to the list in retrospect and pretended it had been there all along. Never a matey person, I imagined motherhood would be the first club to let me in.

Being pregnant was a blessing to a listophile. There are all those things you aren't supposed to eat (pinned up in a list above the fridge in the kitchen); the endless appointments at 202 antenatal clinic, breast-feeding and breathing-in-labour classes; the birth plan (just a glorified list); and the list of those things to take with you into hospital (bags of ice, towels, birthing stool, electric fan, sandwiches, book on how to give birth).

> Child-rearing itself seemed to promise a wealth of new listcompiling possibilities, around which my day, week and life could be structured. Most tasks were so simple, such as buying bink-edged Pampers, that they could be easily deleted with a great flourish of satisfaction. My intenatal appointments were replaced by my daughter's weekly weighing sessions, 10week check, three-month heck. At the three-month check she seemed a little floppy. I added "Buy Penelope Leach and Miriam Stoppard" to the Day List; they should be able to help with handy hints as to how to cure floppiness. Listwriting and motherhood were meant for each other. Then, six months after my daughter was

born, the Life List stopped. There had been suspicions about my daughter's condition for some time. But then, who isn't worried about their first baby? Maybe, if I had been 19, I'd have put her in a frilly pink dress, tied her non-existent fuzz of hair in tiny ribbons, put



a bottle into her mouth and car- There was no "of course" about ried on careless. Only we older mothers make such a song and dance about bringing up baby. Friends were also having concerns about their newborns one's son wasn't putting on enough weight, another's daughter had ghastly projectile vomiting. My daughter's floppiness was just another focus for an over-auxious mother in her

Your daughter will always be a disappointment to you,' he said. It was the cruellest thing anyone has ever told me

But soon, there were several appointments a week with specialists which other babies were not having. At yet another one, my daughter was sitting on my lap as we discussed whether she was old enough to supplement her milk with some juice, when the consultant said, in such a throwaway manner that I only just caught the the words, "Of course, your daughter has cerebral palsy." Strangely, the words I remember most are not the cold, clinical diagnosis, but the "of course". Of course?

it. Cerebral palsy wasn't on the

Cerebral palsy is a condition which affects a child's motor abilities. If you are born with cerebral palsy, you will always have it. The degree to which a child is affected varies from so mild it passes unnoticed, to near-total impairment. It seemed that my daughter would be somewhere in the middle. The consultant added. "She will always be a disappointment to you.7 It is the cruellest thing that anyone has ever said to me. It is also a lie. But from that moment, my

the lists. It was as if I had been following some roughlymapped route and, suddenly. the car swerved wildly and I began to plough through a terrain I had never intended to venture into. When a baby is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, it is unclear where in this foreign land of disability she will fall. Low expectations of children with cerebral palsy - as with all children with disabilities - inevitably encourage such children to underachieve. My daughter might do all sorts of things - and she might not. There would be no certainties. The only lists I could write were those by the day or week. When I tried to construct a Life List. it dissolved into daily tasks. I could no longer imagine what

we all make presumptions about what the future will hold. As adults, we live for an unarticulated future, some blue-

print we keep secret from even ourselves. Life would be intolerable otherwise; we have to think that things will go on. Without realising it. I had had a clear assumption of how my child would turn out. Much has come true - she eats ice-cream like race-paint, chats endlessly. gossips with her girlfriends and says that, when she grows up. she wants to be a witch. But it never occurred to me that alongside these delights, she would never climb trees, never life diverged from the way of run a race, never walk to the shops. These items on my Life List, so deeply assumed that I had never written them down. were suddenly erased. I felt as

> flesh of my life rested had been cut out of me. Other people talked of our tragedy". Friends came and grasped my hands, saying they were "so sorry", as they shook their heads from side to side. looking very concerned, slightly ridiculous and horribly sad. I looked back at them, and wondered who and what they were talking about. I did not feel like a tragic heroine, a nobly suffering parent of a child with problems. I felt like a mum. But I realised, then, that the brood of mothers I expected to be part of would never embrace me. I

if the skeleton on which the

We all have unwritten lists: was different. I was touched. tel's latest product - Barbie's

that inclusion: I still long to belong. When I meet a parent of an able-bodied child, I know that, as she looks at me and my child, she is staring at her worst nightmare. She both pities and is afraid of us. She is so glad she is not me; she is so glad I amthe afflicted one, because there can only be so many of us, and, thankfully, the devil's finger has hovered above my head. The lear of us is so great that

we are written out of the able-

hodied world. Wherever Hook. my child and I are not there. Reluctantly tackling Toys "R" Us this Christmas, I was the only mother who couldn't see anyone who looked just a little bit like her child grinning cheekily out from the ramparts of packaging. There are no pictures of my daughter in children's magazines, no stories with handicapped heroines, no Teletubbies with wobbly legs and wheelchairs. I now realise. after five years, that the reason Loudd not imagine our life was because I had never seen it betore. However wild all the dreams on my Life List might have been, there was always a real-life example I had come across. I had never had to encounter disability; it had been hidden for me, too.

Now I search out visions of my daughter and myself. When, in Toys "R" Us. I spotted Mat-

the diagnosis. I still search for her sparkly pink wheelchair my heart momentarily soared. But on Becky's box is a charitable slogan - "Share a Smile" - the only such slogan on any toy in the store. My child is always an object of pity. And, as if the wickedness of real life must intrude even into toyland, Becky's wheelchair does not fit through the door of Barbie's

> dream house. On my daughter's Christmas list was Becky. Maybe she'd get her, maybe she wouldn't. Writing something down makes it no more real than Santa Claus. However many lists you write, it can't prevent that lone thunderbolt striking.

My daughter's disability has been liberating. I now know that nothing is meant to be, no blueprint can be tattoned on to the energising anarchism of our lives, no Life List is written in stone. Other people remain certain: "I'm going to Barbados on holiday next year", "I'm not going to get pregnant for a few months", "I'll be promoted in the summer", "It'll be a wonderful wedding". But when I hear them say such things, I feel sorry for them. Bound by their life's blueprint, the childish wonder of the world is lost. Don't they know there are no certainties, only hopes?

Dea Birken is author of Serpent in Paradise (Picador, £16.99).



OHN

Went to Paz's New Year Eve's Party. Possibly. Dazed and confused. Have lost 48 hours and sheer body-stocking Aunt Sadie sent me for Christmas. Crawled downstairs. Front door off hinges. Mayan temple in garden toppled. Gnomes modelled on members of Hanson Awol. Nipples

Neighbours have left note, dated 1 Jan, threatening to phone Swat team and Anne Atkins. (Left number with them in case of emergencies). Sick as a supermodel after dessert. Did I have a good time?

Forgot annual resolution. Will ponder once vision

Dear Diary,

Later. Found next door's teenage son comatose in basement. Returned him to worried and unattractive pale parents. Many heartfelt tears and promises of physical violence. Last time I babysit for anyone.

Am glad Andrew is at mother's. Footmarks on bathroom ceiling would take some explaining. Resolve to resolve as soon as police finish dusting for

Dear Diary,

Anne Atkins rang. Hissy fit to burst. Doesn't appreciate hysterical calls from strangers in the dead of night. Told her that's Telegraph readers for you. Was shocked to hear her take the Lord's name in vain. Apologised for wasting her time: "Well, your field of expertise is missing daughters, not missing sons." Repented the words the second uttered, despite rehearsing them all morning. Atkins cursed like a drill sergeant and slammed down phone. If only people knew!

Will consider resolution moment Jehovah's Witnesses wake up and leave.

Dear Diary.

Found vile, foul-tasting, green, snake-like thing clogging mouth. Tongue?

Do resolution once former Tory Minister Who Cannot Be Named frees himself from leather harness in kitchen. Would help except hands still shaking. Will just have to ring his wife himself.

Dear Diary,

In words of the Blessed Celine, it's all coming back to me now. Remember frightening other boys at Paz's party by acting out scene in I Know What You Did Last Summer where psychopath sneaks into sleeping heroine's boudoir and gives her bad haircut. Can still hear the screams. Then lurched from guest to guest defending 17-year-old son of Cabinet minister caught dealing dope. Really, how else can young put themselves through higher education today? If I were his father I'd blame the Government. Recall reassuring Paz that his new Westwood didn't make him look fat - his fat made him look fat. Never darken doorstep again, etc.

Don't know how I fetched up at Fridge. Do know that when Muscle Mary, whose slingbacks I trod on, shrieked "And who the f*** do you think you are?" I was stumped for an answer. Finally admitted to being Michael Barrymore. Hate multiple choice questions.

Will fix on resolution once tongue specialist completes

Dear Diary,

Lynch mob gather in street. Lurk behind net curtains as ringleader - Mrs Tunney, pensioner from number 45 who's always boasting she lives on Pedigree Chum works mob into frenzy (something about "burn the witch") and promises of Battenberg slices after. They should use the old cow's rock cakes to break the windows while they're at it.

Dear Diary.

Andrew rang. Demanded to know why house was on BBC evening news. Asked whether national or local. Andrew ballistic. Coming back this instant. Tell him, if he has a second, to stop and purchase a small skip.

Says he's going to kill me.

Mob swelling. Those near end of the queue - it's a very orderly mob - have brought sleeping bags, little Union Jack flags and bomb-making equipment. Makes you proud to be British.

Resolution after I've made riotous assembly tea.

Dear Diary,

Andrew arrived. Scattered mob by telling them Fergie: Worrier Princess was starting on telly. World-class rage followed. Was right - footmarks on bathroom ceiling did take some explaining. And why was first-floor loo blocked with Björk CDs? (Dunno. Seemed like a good idea at the time ... a good idea at any time, actually.)

Finally compelled to unbook TV and commit beloved's favourite crime against nature. Bingo. Now snuggled up. grunting in sleep and dribbling from mouth. Suddenly feel awfully Marge Simpson: he is truly the wind beneath my duvet. And just look what happens when he leaves me alone. Yawn. Check tongue. Glows in dark. Hmm.

Doh! Wait, wait. Lights on. Nearly forgot. Message/ manifesto/ motto for new year. Must spice up my life.

Action Man lives, thanks to photo-technology

It is perhaps every small boy's fantasy to be a soldier - the only dilemma being who gets to pay the hero, and who the enemy. The artist Paul Smith has got around this by using thoto-technology - and beoming not just the here and vilim, but also whole platoons of

Smith, whose work from he "Artists Rifles" series has ist been bought by that patron of modern art, Charles Saatchi, cortrays himself in a variety of nattle poses, shooting, stabing and dying, some of which oppear somewhat camp.

"My work is intended to

mock the fantasy notions we have about war and the soldier hero," he explains, in a text accompanying the photographs. "Part of its intention is to illustrate the divide between reality and the romanticised vision one has of battle."

Smith displays what he calls his "constructed fantasies" with reference to what created them -plays, comic books, paintings, documentary photographs and war films.

"Acting as every figure within this work, I have courted the military ideal where there are. no individuals, just the unit, brothers in arms," he says.

Smith, who is 28, spent a number of years working as a photographer for the armed forces. His photographs, which he describes as "mainly handshakes and medal presentations", were used in two publications for the Army in Germany - Sixth Sense and Forces Echo.

Occasionally he covered higtraining exercises - the pictures from which gave him the inspiration for the "Army Rifles" series. These he describes as "opening up the divide between

the reality and fantasy of war". Smith says that his first idea of what a soldier should be

came from his toy Action Man: and some of the paintings, which feature Action-Man-like poses - look almost humorous. But Smith is keen to stress that he would never mock the

soldiers themselves. "I wish to extend my deepest respect to those who have died in the very real mass carnage that war, in all its forms, brings."

Jenny Blyth, curator of the Saatchi Gallery, commented: Work by young British artists such as Paul Smith confirms that there is life after



THE INDEPENDENT

JANUARY

Rallying Paris-Dakar Rally (to 17th)

Prootball FA Cup third round

Athletics IAAF World Cross Country Challenge, Durham
Darts Embassy World Professional, Frimley Green (to 11) Golf MacGregor Week, San Roque, Spain (to 10) Hockey DTZ International tournament, Birmingham (to 4) Skiling Men's Alpine World Cup (stalom, grand stalom), Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (to 4)

[A] Sailing Whitbread round the world race, start of fourth Tileg, Sydney-Auckland (approx. to 9)

5 Siding Women's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Ofterschwang, Germany (to 6)

Football Coca-Cola Cup fifth round Skiding Men's Alpine World Cup (giant statom), Hinter stoder, Austria **7Footbail** Cota-Cola Cup fifth round

Osldling Men's Alpine World Cup (slalom, super giant Oslalom), Schladming, Austria (to 10) Swimming World Championships, Perth, Australia (to 18)

Table tennis English Open (to 11) Speed skating European Championships, Helsinki (to 11)

Hockey World Cities Indoor Championship, Kelvin WHall, Glasgow (to 11)
Skilling Women's Alpine World Cup (skilom, giant skilom),

Maribor, Slovenia (to ! !) Figure Skating European Championships, Milan (to 18)
Cyclocross British Championships, Birmingham

Snooteer Regal Welsh, Newport (to 25)
Speed Skating European Short Track Championships, Budapest (to 18)
Table tennis European Nations Cup, Germany

Skiling Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super g-// ant statom), Kitzbühel, Austria (to 18); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, statom, combined), Wengen, Switzerland

Horse racing Victor Chandler Chase, Ascot Railying Monte Carlo Raily (to 21)

(i) Football Euro 2000 draw, Gent, Belgium (ii) Basketball National Cup final, Sheffield

Jennis Australian Open, Melbourne (to 1/2)
Bowls World Indoor Championships, Preston (to 1/2) 7 Golf Johnnie Walker Classic, Thalland (to 25)

2.3 Siding Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, giant Stalom, super-g), Cortina d'Ampezzo (to 25); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, sialom, combined), Kitzbühei (to 25)

A Football FA Cup fourth round Achievics IAAF World Cross Challenge, Belfast Rugby union Italy v Scotland, Treviso Speed Skating World Sprint Championships, Berlin (to 25) Boxing WBO Super-middleweight championship, Joe Calzaghe (GB, holder) v Tarick Salmaci (US), Cardiff

25 American Football Superbowl XXXII, San Diego 26 Biathlon European Champlonships, Bekirus (to 1/2)

27Squash British National Championships, Manchester (to 2/2)

20 Sking Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super giant slalom), Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany (to 1/2) 2 OCricket West Indies v England, first Test, Jameica (to 2/2)
Siding Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, combined), Are, Sweden (to 1/2)
Golf Heineken Classic, Perth, Australia (to 1/2)

30 Swimming Great Britain Grand Prix event, Swansea (to 1/2) Badminton English National Championships, Haywards Heath (to 1/2); Scottish National Championships (to 1/2)

Rugby union European Cup final, Brive (Fr) v Bath (Eng), Bordeaux Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup third round (to 1/2) Sailing Whithread Round the World race, start of leg five, Auckland (approx. to 24) Cyclocross World Championships, Denmark (to 1/2)



Brazil will look to Ronaldo to provide the goalscoring touch as they begin their defence of the World Cup

GROUP A Brazil, Scotland, Morocco, Norway Wed 10 June (St Denis, 4.30) Wed 10 June (Montpellior, 8.0) Tues 16 June (Bordons, 4.30) Tues 16 June (Names, 6.0) Tues 23 June (Marselles, 8.0) Italy, Chile, Cameroon, Austria Thur 11 June (Bordsaux 4.30) Thur 11 June Wed 17 June Tues 23 June (St Denis 3.0) GROUP C France, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Denmark **GROUP D**

(Narsolles, 8.0) (Toulouse, 4.30) (St Denis, 8.0) France v South Africa South Africa v Denmark Thur 18 June France v Saudi Arabia France v Denmark (0.6 ,nov.l)

(Bulouse, 8.0) (St Elienne, 4.30) (Montpeller, 8.0)

Scotland v Norway

oon v Austria v Austria v Camercon

y Austria

Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay, Bulgaria

Fri 12 June (Names, 1.30) (Names, 1.30) (Paris, 4.30) (St Etienne, 8.0) (Lens, 8.0) Fri 19 June

THE WO GROUP E Netherlands, Balgium (Lyon 4,30) Sat 13 June

(St Dinis, 8.0) (Bordiaux, 4.3. (Marselles, 8.0

(St Etlenne, 3.L

Thur 25 Jul (Paris 3.0) **GROUP**

Sat 13 June Sat 20 June

Sat 20 June

Thur 25 Jun

Germany United St **Տ**ու 14 Ju Mon 15 June Sun 21 June Sun 21 June (Paris, 8.0) (Lens, 1.30) (Lyon, 8.0) (Montpellier, 8

FEBRUARY

Snooker Benson & Hedges Masters, Wembley (to 8) Cyclocross World Championships, Denmark **2** Tennis Tokyo Women's Open (to 8); Marseille Open Men's Tournament (to 8)

4 Squash European Champion of Champions, Norway (to 7)

Solf South African Open (to 8)
Railying International Swedish Raily, Karlstad (to 8) Hockey Men's Indoor Finals, Crystal Palace Judo Paris A Tournament (to 8)

Winter Olympics Nagano, Japan (to 22)
Rugby union Five Nations' Championship France v England,
Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin; International Wales v Italy Athletics AAA Indoor Championships, Birmingham (to 8) OSnooker Scottish Open, Aberdeen (to 22)

Football England v Chile International friendly (Wembley)

2 Golf Alfred Dunhill South African PGA, Jo'burg (to 15)

Spain (to 17)

Football FA Cup fifth round
If Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth round (to 15) Motor racing Daytona 500, Florida
Athletics BUPA Indoor GP, Birmingham

8 Football Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg Swimming GB Grand Frix event, Leeds (to 22)

20 Hockey European Men's Indoor Champ A Division (St Albans), Hamburg: B Division (Menzieshill), Dundee (to 22)

Rugby union Five Nations Chariptonium — Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Murrayfield Rugby union Five Nations' Championship England v Horse racing Tote Elder H'cap S'chase, Newcastle: Colin Davie Persian War Premier Novice Hurdle, Chepstow 22 Football Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg

23 Tennis Guardian Direct Cup, Battersea (to 1/3)

25 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix II Melbourne Classic Basketball Belarus v England, Euro Champ, Minsk

26 Snooker Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, Derby (to 1/3)
Golf Dubai Desert Classic (to 1/3); Nissan Open, US (to 1/3) ice hockey Express Superleague Cup final

27Cricket West Indies v England, third Test, Guyana (to 3/3) Athletics European Indoor Championships, Valencia, Spain (to

Hockey European Women's Indoor Championship A Division (Slough & Edinburgh), Russelsheimer, Germany (to 1/3) Rallying Safari Rally, Nairobi (to 2/3) Swimming Great Britain Club Team Championships, Stock-

© Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth round 20 matches (to 1/3) Hockey Sultan Azlah Shah Tournament – Men's Stx Nation, Kuala Lumpur (to 8/3) Horse racing Racing Post S'chase, Kempton Basketball England v Israel, Euro Champ, Manchester Skiing Men's Alpine World Cup (stalom, giant stalom), Yong

Pyong, South Korea (to 1/3) Football African Nations' Cup final, Ouagadougou

APRIL

Cricket W Indies v England, 2nd one-day match, Barbados Football European Cup semi-finals first leg Tootball European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-finals first leg LHorse racing Grand National meeting, Amoree (to 4) Equestrianism World Cup jumping final, Sweden

Tennis Davis Cup Euro/Africa zone Group 1, second Dround, GB v Ukraine or Denmark, Newcastle (to 5) Rugby league Super League season begins Hockey Men's Inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 5)

A Criclest W Indies v England, 3rd one-day match, St Vincent I Horse racing Grand National, Aintree Rugby union Five Nations' Championship England kreland. Twickenham Athletics European 10,000m Challenge, Lisbon, Portugal;

Fisu Cross Country Championships, Luton American football World League starts Rowing Sculler's Head of the River race, London Tideway Curling World Championships, Canada (to 12)

Cricket W Indies v England, fourth one-day match, St Vincenc Football FA Cup semi-finals Rugby union Five Nations' Champtonship Wales v France,

Cycling World Cup Tour of Flanders

Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Silverstone
Hockey Men's cup final, Milton Keynes Oriclest W Indies v England, fifth one-day match, Orinidad

9Golf US Masters, Augusta (to 12) Hockey European Six Nations U16/U18 Championship men and women, Milton Keynes (to 13)

OHockey European Men's Cup-Winners' Cup A Division (Teddington), Neth, Women's A Division (Hightown), Belgium; European Women's Club Championship A Division (Slough), Southgate; Men's B Division (Reading), Belgium (no 13) Judo British Open Championships, Birmingham (to

Motor racing Argentinian Grand Prtx, Buenos Arles Cycling World Cup Paris-Roubaix

Horse racing Irish Grand National, Fairyhouse

Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Thruston Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round three,

4 Football Uefa Cup semi-finals second leg Horse racing Craven meeting, Newmarket (to 16) Basketball Men's clubs Eurocup final judo European Senior Championships, Spain (to 17) ice hockey World Championships "B" pool, Slove

Jessenice and Ljubljana, (to 24) | 5 Football European Cup semi-finals second leg 5 Equestrianism Volvo World Cup final, Helsinki (co 19) Football Euro Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final second leg Golf Cannes Open, France (to 19) 7Cricket County championship starts

 Athletics IAAF World Road Relay Champlonship,
 OManaus, Brazil (to 19) Horse racing Scottish Grand National, Ayr Rugby union County Championship final (Twickenham) Snooker Embassy World Championship, Sheffield (to 4/5) Gymnastics British Women's Teams event, Bognor Hockey Women's inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 19)

Rugby union Scottish Tennents Cup semi-finals
Football Auto Windscreens Shield final, Wembley Railying Spanish Raily, Lloret de Mar (to 22)
Cycling World Cup Liège-Bastogne-Liège
Sailing Whitbread Round the World race, start of seventh leg. Fort Lauderdale (approx. to 22)

20 Tennis Monte Carlo Open (to 26) 22Football International friendlies England opponents the; Scotland v Finland; U-16 European Champi-

onships, Scotland (to 8/5) Colf Tur **43 Gymmastics** Men's Euro Champlonship, Russia (to 26) Squash European Team Championships, Finland (to 26);

World Doubles Championship, Canada (to 27) 25 Horse racing Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown
25 Cycling World Cup Amstel Gold

Actiletics London Marathon

O'Motor racing San Marino Grand Prix, Imola; Auto
Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Silverstone; British Formula 3 Championship, Brands Hatch Basketball World Championship finals

30 Gymnastics Women's European Championships, St. Petersburg (to 3/5) Cycling Tour of Lancashire (to 4/5) Golf Conte of Florence Italian Open, Milan (to 3/5)

MARCH

Hockey British Aerospace U-18 Women's Schools Champlonship, Milton Keynes

7 Tennis Evert Cup, California (to 14)

3 Football Uefa Cup quarter-finals, first leg (Atletico Madrid V Aston Villa) 4 Football European Cup quarter-final first leg (Monaco v Manchesser United)

Booting ABA finals, Birmingham **5** Football European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg (Real Betis v Chelsea)

Golf Qatar Masters, Doha; Doral-Ryder Open, Miami (to 8) Winter Paralympic Games Japan (to 14) Football FA Cup sixth round Rugby union Five Nations' Championship France v Ireland, Paris; Wales v Scotland, Wembley

Rowing Women's Head of the River race, London Tideway Snooker Thailand Masters, Bangkok (to 15)
Skiding Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super giant slalom), Morzine, France (to 8); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super giant slalom), Kvitijell, Norway (to 8)
Table tennis Senior National Championships, Bath (to 8)
Synchronised Swimming National Championships, Halifax

(OMotor racing Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne

Tennis Newsweek Champions Cup, California (to 15) Rowling Schools' Head of the River race, London Tide Badminton All-England Championships, Birmingham (to 16)

OHockey Varsky match, Milton Keynes Skiling Women's Europa Cup (statom, giant statom), Nevis Range, Cairngom, Scotland

Skiing Alpine World Cup Men's and Women's finals (downhill, giant slalom, super-giant slalom, combined), Crans Montana, Switzerland (to 15)

2 Cricket West Indies v England, fourth Test, Barbados (to Golf Moroccan Open, Agadir (to 15); Honda Classic, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (to 15) Billiards World Matchplay, Liverpool (to 16)

3 Speed starting World Championships, Netherlands (to 15) Rugby league Sik Cur. Challenge Cup quarter-finals (to 15)
Il Horse racing Imperial Cup, Sandown
Swirmming Fina World Cup, Sheffield (to 15)

Sailing Whitbread Round the World race - start of sixth leg (to 2/4 approx)

Motorcycling Superbike World Champtonship round Done, Indonesia I 6 lee starting British Precision Team Championships, Bracknell (to 17)

Billiards British Open, Chesterfield (to 22)

Tennis Lipton Championships, Florida (to 29) **TFootball Uela Cup quarter-final, second leg. (Aston Villa v Adetico Madrid) Horse racing Cheltenham Festival (to 19); Champion Hurdle, Pootball European Cup quarter-final second leg (Man-Ochester United v Monaco) Athletics World Road Relay Championships, Brazil (to 19)

Prootball European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final sec-ond leg (Chelsea v Real Betis) Golf Portuguese Open, Lisbon (to 22); Bay Hill Invitational, Orlando, Florida (to 22) Horse racing Cheltenham Gold Cup

20Cricket West Indies v England, fifth Test, Antigua (to 24) Diving National Masters Competitions, Sheffield (to 22) Speed Skating Short Track World Championships, Vienna (to

Rugby union Five Nations' Championship Ireland v Wales, Dublin Rowing Tideway Head of the river race, London Athletics IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Morocco (to 22) Horse racing Midlands Grand National, Uttoxeter

Cycling World Cup Milan-San Remo Ice hockey National League play-off finals (to 22) Rugby union Five Nations' Champtonship Scotland v England, Murrayfield

Gymnastics Men's and Women's Welsh Championships Railying Portuguese Raily, Figuera da Foz (co 25) Rowling Women's Oxford and Cambridge boat race, Henley Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Donington Park Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round two. Phillip Island, Australia

24 Smooker Benson & Hedges Irish Masters (to 29)

25 Football International friendlies, England's opponents total (ba; Scotland v Denmark: Northern Treland v Colombia Squash British Open, Birmingham (to 5/4)

Horse racing Opening of the Flat Season 26 Golf Players Championship, Sawgrass, Plorida (to 29) 27Rugby union Hong Kong Sevens (to 29)
Athletics IAAF Grand Prix II All Africa Invitational, Jo burg

Women's Gymnastics GB v Spain, Guildford Speed stating World Single Distance Championships, Canada; Short track World Team Championship, Italy (both to 29) Motorcycling MCN British Superbike Championship, Brands

(a) Rowing Oxford v Cambridge University Boat Race △©Rugby union Tedey's Bitter Cup semi-finals Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals (to 29) Horse racing Lincoln H'cap, Doncaster; Dubai World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championships and Interna-Ice hockey Superleague play-off final, Manchester Judo Commonwealth Tournament, Edinburgh

(a) (a) Cricket West Indies v England, first one-day match, Bar-Football Coca-Cola Cup final Motor racing Brazilian Grand Prix, Interlagos; British Formula 3 Championship, Thruxton Figure Skating World Championships. Minneapolis (to 5/4)

3 | Football Usta Cup seminary | Shooter British Open, Plymouth (to 12/4) J Football Uefa Cup semi-finals first leg

MAY

Horse racing 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup final Rugby union Women's World Cup, Amsterdam (co 16) Basketball Budweiser Championship finals, Wembley (co 3) වූ Horse racing 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket

Athletics Rio de Janeiro GP Football CSI FA Women's Cup final Rallying French Rally, Ajaccio (to 6) Salling Whitbread round the world race, start of eighth leg, Baltimore, US (approx. to 16) Motorcycling Spanish Grand Prix, Jerez

Tennis Italian Women's Open (to 10)

Motor racing British Touring Car Championship, Donington; British Formula 3 Championship, Oulton Park Railying Rally of Corsica 6 Football Uefa Cup final, Paris

Gotf Peugeot Spanish Open (to 10)
Equestrian Badminton Horse Trials (to 10) Athletics International meeting, Doha Rhythmic Gymnastics World Group Championships, OSpain (to 10) Basketball NBL Championship finals, Men and Women,

Manchester (co (0) ORugby union Tedey's Bitter Cup final, Twickenham; Scouish Tennents Cup final, Murrayfield Athletics Osaka GP Football FA Vase final

Modern Triathion British Championships (to 10) Fencing British Foll Championships (to 10) OF COTATION NATION WISE LEAGUE SEMI-final play-offs first leg; FA Umbro Trophy final Motor racing Spanish Grand Prix, Barcelona Motorcycling Superbike World Championship, round four,

Hockey Women's Cup final, Milton Keynes Tennis Italian Men's Open (to 17)

?Horse racing York Dante meeting (to 14) **7** Football European Cup-Winners' Cup final, Stock

→ holm: Nationwide League semi-final play-offs second leg Equestrian Royal Windsor Horse Show (to 17) 4 Golf B&H Int. Open, Oxfordshire (to 17)

Tjudo European Championships, Oviedo, Spain (to 17) Horse racing Lockinge Stakes, Newbury JGolf Brabazon Trophy, Liverpool (to 17)

Gymnastics World Aerobic Championships, Italy (to 17)

Football FA Cup final; Scottish FA Cup final Rugby union Middlesex sevens, Twickenham Cycling Giro d'Italia (to 7/6) Fencing British Epée Championship (to 17) Canoeing National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham (to 17)

•

7/Motor racing British Touring Car Championship.
Brands Hatch; British Formula 3 Championship. Silver-

Tennis ATP Tour Championship, Düsseldorf (to 24)

20Football European Cup final, Amsterdam Rallying Argendinian Rally, Cordoba (to 23) Hockey Men's and Women's World Cups, Utrecht, Netherlands (to 31)

2 Cricket England v South Africa, first one-day match, The Oval Equestrian Windsor Horse Trials (to 24) Sailing Rover Series, Clyde (to 26)

22 Football Nationwide Third Division play-off final Golf Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth (to 25) Sailing Whithread round the world race, start of final leg, La Rochelle, France. (Ends Southampton, approx. 24/5) 2 Cricket England v South Africa, second one-day Dinatch, Old Trafford Football International friendly England v Saudi Arabia Horse racing Irish 1,000 Guineas, Curragh

Cycling Prudential Tour of Britain (to 31) A Cricket England v South Africa, third one-day match, Theadingley

Motor racing Monaco Grand Prix; British Formula 3 Championship, Croft

Football Nationwide Second Division play-off final; International friendly Chile v Scotland, US Horse racing Irish 2,000 Guineas, Curragh 25 Football Nationwide First Division play-off final Tennis French Open, Paris (to 7/6)

Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Outton Park 26 Horse racing Brigadler Gerard Stakes, Sandown
Basketball Women's World Championship, Germany

(to 7/6) 27 Cricket B&H Cup quarter-finals

Rugby union Swalec Cup final, Cardiff

28 Gymnastics European Championships (to 31)

2 9 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix event, Hengelo, Netherlands Golf Deutsche Bank – SAP Open TPC of Europe, Hamburg (to 1/6) Hockey European Men's Club Championship C Division, Glasgow, Women's B Division, Swansea (to 1/6) Swimming Speedo Super Grand Prix, Sheffield (to 31); Great Britain Masters Championships, Glasgow (to 31) 3 OF cottail England international friendly, opponents that Athletics Seville GP

Rowing Fisa World Cup, Munich, Germany (to 31) Table tennis Grand Prix finals, Bath (to 31) 3 Athletics Eugene (US) GP

Thur 25 Jun Thur 25 June GROUP (Romania, Colombia Mon 15 June Mon 15 June (Lyon, 4.30) Mon 22 June (Morspeller 4.: Mon 22 June (Toulouse, 8.0) Fri 26 June Fri 26 June (St Denis, 6.0) (Lene, 8.0) GROUP H Argentina Japan, Ja Sun 14 June Sun 14 June Sun 14 June (1605,80)
Sat 20 June (Naries, 1.30)
Sun 21 June (Paris, 4.30)
Fri 26 June (Bordec) 1, 3.0 Lvon, 330 Solf Bridsi Inship, Mu Tenis Surrey onsips, Surbit Moorcycling Atletics St I

Saing Hoya Harpshire (to 4 tricket Er Gol Evian Ma Alaro Eryfish Atteucs Eur Evers, Italy (tr Hocey Europ Cup Qualifier, 5 Hyrse rac Rallyng Acros 6 Hrse rac Caneing Na Nottigham (t Montrac Prl. Montr Hors racing Chanty Athleics Mo Motocycling Cham md st 8 Tenis Ste Ship Quer 14): DE Clas

9Cnt B OFootba Equest Horse 7 Gol Danish (Corpaq Euroj Norhumberla) Athleti

Rugby Motor Car Ch Brith F3 Cha Spedway Br Trac Racing (American fo Sailng Intern Charpionship Ternis I 2. Dire piorhips. Bour bledn qualifyir Horse I

Ocricket Osecond GolUS Oper Madira Island $2^{\rm (Rugby)}_{\rm England}$ Sout Africa y ludcScourish Rowng Worr 2 |Cycling Worl Champ 22Tennis Zonships 2 TG(Per

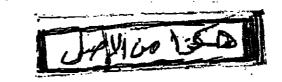
Rugby England Wals, Prett Hors: racing Plate, Newcasi Athletics Spe Legue, St Pet 20Horse i Mccor racin; Brigh Tourin;

26Cycling

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COMPILE Whe all po bee taker of tis call x venes are

S. X.



l calendar of world sport 1998

RLD CUP

ı, South Korea, Mexico South Korea v Mexico Nethorlands v Belglum Belgium v Medoo Notherlands y South Kores

ite. Yugoslavia, iran

Germany v US Connany v Yugo

England, Tunisia

Colombia v Tunisia

amaica, Croatia

SECOND ROUND Saturday 27 June: Game 2 (Marsellles, 3.30) Group B winner v Group A runner-up Saturday 27 Juna: Game 1 (Paris, 8.0) Group A winner v Group B runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 3 (Lens, 3.30) Group C winner v Group D runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 4 (St Denis, 8.0) Group D Winner v Group C runner-Monday 29 June: Game 6 (Montpeller, 3.30) Group F winner v Group E numer-up

Monday 29 June: Game 5 (Toulouse, 8.0) Group E winner v Group F rurmer-up Tuesday 30 June: Game 7 (Bordeaux, 3.30) Group G winner v Group H runner-up Tuesday 30 June: Game 8 (St Etienna, 8.0) Group H winner v Group G runner-up QUARTER-FINALS 3 July: Game B (St Denis, 3,30)

Game 2 winner v Game 3 winner 3 July: Game A (Nantes, 8.0) Game 1 winner v Game 4 winner 4 July: Game C (Marseilles, 3.30) Game 5 winner v Game 8 winner 4 July: Game D (Lyon, 8.0) Game 6 winner v Game 7 winner SEMI-FINALS 7 July (Marseilles, 8.0) Game A winner v Game C winner

8 July (St Denis, 8.0) THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF 11 July, Paris (8.0) FINAL 12 July, St Denis (8.0)

(All times BST; local times one hour later)



England will be hoping that Alan Shearer is back to full fitness in time to lead their attack in France

SEPTEMBER

Athletics Berlin GP LCanoeing Retwater World Championships, Hungary (to 6)

3 Equestrianism Burghley Horse Trials (to 6)
Golf Canon European Masters, Switzerland (to 6) Cricket NatWest Trophy final, Lord's Athletics IAAF Grand Prix final, Moscov

Rowing World Championships, Cologne, Germany (to 13) Cycling Tour of Spain (to 27)
Triathlon Long-distance World Championships, Sado Island, Japan; World Championships, Switzerland (both to 6) Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round 12, Netherlands

Golf Home Internationals, Royal Porthcawl (to 11)

I OEquestrianism Blenheim Horse Trials (to 13) Golf British Masters (venue tha) (to 13)

Commonwealth Games, Malaysia (to 21) Athletics IAAF World Cup, Johannesburg (to 13) Canoeing Stalom World Cup finals, Spain (to 13)

Horse racing St Leger, Doncaster
Angling National Championships Division 1, Thames

Motor racing Italian GP, Morza; Brit FJ Champ, Thruston;
Auto Trader RAC Brit Touring Car Champ, Outton Park
Mountain biking World Champlonships, Canada (to 20)
Judo Heart of England Championships Hurling All-Ireland final Tennis Samsung Open, Bournemouth (to 20)

5 Football Uefa Cup first round, first leg-

6 Football European Champions' League opening matches

7Football European Cup-Winners' Cup first round, first leg Golf Trophée Lancôme, France (to 20) Horse racing Timeform Harry Rosebery Trophy, Ayr

Golf Solheim Cup, Dublin, Ohio, US (to 20) Railying Indonesian Raily (to 20) Horse racing Gold Cup. Ayr; Irish St Leger, Curragh Cycling Grand Prix des Nations, France Sailing RYA Women's National Champ, Graffram Water (to 20)

Croquet All England final 2 O'Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Silverstone

Angling Boat angling World Championships, Slovenia (to 20/10) 23 Equestrianismism Horse of the Year Show, Wembley Arena (to 27)

24 Goff Linde German Masters (to 27)

2 Horse racing Queen Bizabeth II Stakes, Ascot
OAngling National Championships Division 5 Motor racing Luxembourg Grand Prix, Nurburgring, British Formula 3 Championship, Spa-Francorchamps Rugby league Super League season ends Horse racing Fillies' Mile, Ascot

Athletics World Half Marathon Championships, Zurich

Gaelic football All-Ireland final 28^{Tennis} Grand Slam Cup, Munich (to 4/10)

29Football Uefa Cup first round, second leg Horse racing Cheveley Park Stakes, Newmarket 30Football European Champions' League matches

UNE

1 Amateur Champirfield (to 6) Grass Court Champi-:on (to 7) ble of Man TT (to 12) Jenis GP, France Royal Lymington Cup.

gland v South Africa agbaston (to 8) sters (women) (to 7); Open, Hanbury Manor

opean Cup Combined ean Men's Nations

Dundee (to 11) ing The Oaks, Epsom oolis Rafly, Athens (to 9) ing The Derby, Epsoming Le Mans 24hr (to 7)

ing Canadian Grand ; Prix du Jockey Club,

tional Sprint Regatta,

: Superbike World c. Nürburgring 1/2 Artois Championn's Club, London (to kc. Birmingham (to 14) kH, ip semi-finals AA: GP, Slovakia , see details above) rianism Bramham rials (to 14) 7рел (women) (to 14); bean Grand Prix, nd (to 14)

union South Africa v racing British Touring .mp. Donington Paric mpionship, Snetterton othall World Bowl

zs Helsinki GP

ational 5.5 European Votriji sham Open (to nemouch (to 20); Wimg, Roehampton (to 18) racing Royal Ascot . Ascot (to 19) : England v South Africa Test, Lord's (to 22) . San Francisco (to 21); Open (to 21) union New Zealand v first Test, Dunedin: Ireland, Pretoria en's Henley (to 2!) ! Isle of Man Week ycling Superbike rnd 7, Misano, Italy

Wimbledon Champi-(to 5/7) igel Open de France, (28)

; Manx international union New Zealand v

Auckland; South Africa ! Northumberland

r European Cup Super ersburg, Russia (to 28) racing Irish Derby.

Auto Trader RAC Car Champ, Croft

BY NICK HARRIS

issible care has រូវក្ម the compilation हिं r, dates and ubject to change

IULY

AUGUST

Rowing Henley Royal Regatta (to 5)
Athletics Paris GP

Cricket England v South Africa third Test, Old Traf-Golf US Women's Open, Kohler, Wisconsin, US (to 5);

Murphy's Irish Open, Dublin (to 5) Rugby union South Africa v England, Cape Town
Horse racing Coral-Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Canoeing National Sprint Championships Regatta, Nottingham (to 5) Angling National Championships Division 3, Milton

Cycling British Road Race Championship (Dudley)
Athletics Linz (Austria) GP Motorcycling British Grand Prix, Donington Park, Su-perbike World Championship, round eight, Brazil

7Modern Pentathion European Championships, Millfield (to 15) Equestrianism Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead (to (2)

Golf Gulfstream Loch Lomond World Invitational, (to 011) 9Horse racing Ladbroke Bunbury Cup. Newmarket Swimming National Championships, including Com-monwealth Games team selection/trials, Sheffield (to 12)

Rowing Fisa World Cup, Lucerne, Switzerland (to 12) Cricket B&H Cup final, Lord's Cycling Tour de France (to 2/8) Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Silver-

Motor racing British Grand Prix, Silverstone
Literature racing Irish Oaks, Curragh
Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round
nine, California

Croquet Open Championships, Hurlingham (to 19) Equestrianism Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (to 16)

15 Athletics Nice GP

Sailing Cowes Week (to 8)

3 Royal Learnington Spa (to 15)

5 Equestrian Dublin Horse Show (to 9) Athletics Stockholm GP

Gleneagles (to 9); Czech Open (to 9)

Athletics Monte Carlo GP

Division, Belfast (to 16)

Lytham & St Annes (to 16)

Athletics Cologne GP

onships, Garcombe Park (to 16)

6 Golf Open Championship, Royal Birkdale (to 19) Sailling Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race, Falmouth

7 Rowing National championships, Strathdyde (to 19) Athletics Bislett Games, Oslo Tennis Davis Cup World Group, second round

Archery World Field Championships, Austria (co 10)

Angling Nat Women's Champs, Trent & Mersey Canal Golf Curtis Cup, Minnesota (to 2)

Motor racing German GP Hockenheim: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Champ, Thruston Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round

Bowls England National Championships for Women,

A Rowing Junior World Championships, Ottenschlern, Austria (to 9)

Gricket England v S Africa 5th Test, Headingley (to 10) Golf McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe,

7Speedway Bridsh Individual World Track Racing Championship

(a) Football Charity Shield, Wembley
Hockey European Women's U21 Nations Cup A

Squash World Masters Games, Portland, US (to 22)

Equestrianism Aachen Horse Show, Germany

Football Uefa Cup second qualifying round, first leg

Equestrianism Hickstead Derby (to 16)

2 Cricket Natwest Trophy second semi-final 2 Football European Cup 2nd qual round, first leg Athletics Zurich GP

3 Golf US PGA Championship, Seattle, Washington (to 16); Weetabix Women's British Open, Royal

Football European Cup-Winners' Cup qual round, first

4 Cricket Triangular Tournament South Africa v Sri Lanka, Trent Bridge

Cricket Trangular Tournament England v Sri Lanka, © Lord's

Football Premier League season starts

Equestrianism British Horse Trials Champi-

Motor racing Hungarian Grand Proc. Budapest: Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship,

Bowls England National Championships for Men, Royal

! Cricket Natwest Trophy first semi-final

Football Nationwide league season starts
Cycling World Cup San Sebastian Classic

Swimming European Long Distance Open Water. Swimming Cup, Nottingham Sailing Traditional Boat Rally, Henley-on-Thames (to 19) Angling National Championships Division 2, Middle

2 Modern Pentathion Women's World Championships Pendana Control onships, Perpignan, France (to 25) 22 Football European Cup first qualifying round, first leg Uefa Cup first qualifying round, first leg

23 Cricket England v South Africa fourth Test, Trent Bridge (to 27) Golf Chrysler Open, Sweden (women) (to 26); Dutch

74 Athletics AAA Champs, Birmingham (to 26)

 ○ C Horse racing King George VI and Queen Biza ∠Deth Diamond Stakes, Ascot Rallying Rally of New Zealand, Auckland (to 28) De Motor racing Austrian Grand Pric, Auto
Dirader RAC British Touring Car Championship,

Mountain biking British Championships Rallying Rally of Finland

27Cycling British Track Championships, Manchester (to 1/8)

Greece (to 9/8)

30Goff Du Maurier Classic, Ontario, Canada (to 2/8); Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Stockholm

3 | Motorcycling World Superbike, Brands Hatch (to 2/8)

Horse racing Weatherbys Super Sprint, Newbury

Athletics Sheffield GP

20 Sailing NSSA National Regatta, Datchet (to 24)

Open (to 26)

20Cricket NatWest Trophy quarter-finals

Horse racing Goodwood five-day meeting

29Horse racing Sussex stakes, Goodwood Basketball Men's World Champlonship, Athens, Football European Cup first qualifying round, second leg. Uefa Cup first qualifying round, second leg

Athletics World Junior Championships, Annecy, France

OCricket Triangular Tournament England v South OAfrica, Edgbaston

Athletics European Championships, Budapest, (co 23) Horse racing juddmonte International Stakes, York

20 Cricket Triangular Tournament final, Lord's Equestrianismism British Show Jumping, Hick-

Golf Compaq Open, Sweden (women) (to 23); European Open, Dublin (to 23)

22Sailing Largs Regatta Week, Scotland
Angling National Championships Division 4,

၇) ၃ Cycling British circuit race championships, Bury

24 Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship.
Pembrey

25 Football Uefa Cup second qualifying round, second leg

Football European Cup second qualifying round, second

26 Cycling World Track Championships, France (to 29)

27Cricket England v Sri Lanka one-off Test, The Oval (to 31)

second leg Golf BMW International Open, Munich (to 30)

20 Motorcycling Manx GP (to 4/9)
Sailing International Festival of the Sea.

Formula 3 Championship, Donington Park

Powerboat racing Cowes Classic

Championship, Brands Hatch

Football European Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round,

Motor racing Belgian Grand Prix, Spa Francor-champs (tobacco sponsorship allowing); British

Motorcycling Superbike World Championship, round

3 | Tennis US Open, New York (to 13/9) Rowing World Championships, Cologne (to 6/9)

Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car

Cycling Bridsh Women's Road Race Championship,

Motocross British Sidecar World Championship

Rallying Neste Rally, Finland (to 23)

Powerboat racing Poole-Needles Trophy

Athletics Lausanne GP

Portsmouth Harbour (to 31)

Athletics Brussels GP

I I. Austria

Motorcycling Ulster GP (to 22)
Horse racing Tote Ebor, York

OCTOBER

Equestrianism World Games, Italy (to 11) Horse racing Newmarket October meeting, (to 3) Football European Cup-Winners' Cup first round, second legs

7) Judo Welsh Championships, Cardiff

Sailing Royal Yachting Association Multihull Youth Championships, Weymouth (to 4)

Cycling World Cup Paris-Tours
If Horse racing Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Sil Motorcycling Superbike World Championship, round 13, Japan Fencing World Championships, Switzerland (to !))

Cycling World Road Race and Time Trial Championships, Nesherlands (to [1]) Solf Alfred Dunhill Cup, St Andrews (to 11)

Trampolining World Championships, Sydney

Rallying Rally of Italy, San Remo (to 14)

Motor racing Portuguese Grand Prix, Estorii (provisional) Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round 14,

7 Jude British Closed Championships, Cardiff (to 13)

15 Gotf World Match Play Championship, Wentworth (to 18)

Cycling World Cup Tour of Lombardy
Horse racing Dubai Champion Stakes, Newmarket
Horse Fric Twiname final, Derwent Reservoir (to 18) judo European Team Championships, Austria (to 18)

1 9Karate World Championships, Brazil (to 25) Baseball World Series starts 20 Football Uefa Cup second round, first leg matches

Football European Champions' League matches

22 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup second round,

A Horse racing Racing Post Trophy, Doncaster 26 Tennis Eurocard Open, Stuttgart (to 1/11)

Motocross Weston Beach Race (to 1/11)
Angling Men's and Women's Shore Angling World Championships, Langeland, Germany

NOVEMBER

Motor racing Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka Squash World Women's Open, Stuttgart

7 Tennis Paris Indoor Championships (to 8) Horse racing Melbourne Cup, Australia Football Uefa Cup second round, second leg match Volleyball Women's World Championships, Japan (to 12) Squash Women's World Open, Germany (to 8) 4 Football European Champions' League matches

C' Golf Subaru Sarazen World Open, Atlanta (to 8) Rallying API Rally, Australia (to 8) Football European Cup-Winners' Cup second round, 2nd legs Squash Men's World Open, Malaysia (to 9)

Gymnastics Women's British Championships, Guildford ORallying Rally of Australia 7/Judo Junior National Championships, Sheffield (to 8) Horse racing Tote Credit November Handicap, Doncast

er; Breeders Cup, Churchill Downs, US

Squash Women's World Team Championships, Germany

Rowing Four's Head of the River Race, London Tide-

Tennis WTA Tour Chase Champs, NY (to 22); ATP Tour Doubles Championship, Hartford, US (to 22) 7 Tennis Guardian Direct National Championships, Telford (to 22)

J Golf World Cup, Auckland (to 22); PGA European Tour Qualifying School Finals (to 24) Badminton Scottish International Championships (to 22) Rallying Network Q RAC Rally, Cheltenham (to 24)

23 Tennis ATP Tour Championship, Hannover (to 29) 24Football Uefa Cup third round, first leg matches

25 Football European Champions' League matches

2 (O**Judo** Great Britain International A Tournament, Birm-Wingham (to 29) torse racing Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup Handicap Steeple chase. Newbury Modern Biathlon British Championship

3 Volleyball Men's World Championships, Japan (to 29) Learnington Spa (to 29) Cycling World Cup International Classic, Leeds

Tennis Davis Cup final (to 6)

Rowing Putney to Mortlake Women's and Men's Thames World Sculling Challenge

Golf President's Cup, Royal Melbourne, Australia Swimming Euro short-course champs, Sheffield (to 13)

Proofball Uefa Cup third round, second leg Rugby union Varsity Match, Twickenham Prootball European Champions' League matches 'lee skating National Championships, Hull (to 13)

Judo British Closed Men's and Women's Champi-Lonships (to 13)

Athletics Spar European Cross Country Champion Ships, Ferrara, Italy **7Swimming** British Championships, Glasgow (to 20) Equestrian Olympia Show Jumping Championships (to 21)

26 Horse racing King George VI, Kempton

28 Horse racing Welsh National, Chepstow

THE YEAR'S MAJOR EVENTS

DECEMBER

Athletics London Marathon 26 Apr European Champs, Budapest 18-23 Aug

West Indies v England First Test, Jamaica 29 Jan-2 Feb Second Test, Trinidad 13-17 Feb Third Test, Guyana 27 Feb-3 Mar Fourth Test, Barbados 12-16 Mar

Commonwealth Games

Malaysia 11-21 Sep

Fifth Test, Andgua 20-24 Mar England v South Africa Second Test, Lord's 18-22 jun Third Test, Old Trafford 2-6 Jul Fourth Test, Trent Bridge 23-27 Jul Fifth Test, Headingley 6-10 Aug

One-off Test England v Sri Lanka The Oval 27-31 Aug Benson & Hedges Cup final, Lord's 11 Jul NatWest Trophy final, Lord's 5 Sep

Tour de France, 11 Jul-2 Aug

Uefa Cup final 6 May European Cup-Winners' Cup final 13 May FA Cup final 16 May Coca-Cola Cup final 29 Mar US Masters 9-12 Apr US Open 18-21 Jun

US PGA Championships 13-16 Aug

European Cup final 20 May

Grand National 4 Apr Derby 6 Jun

The Open 16-19 Jul

British Grand Prix Silverstone 12 Jul

University Boat Race 28 Mar Henley Regatta 1-5 jul

Rugby League Challenge Cup Final, Wembiey 2 May Rugby Union Five Nations' Championship France v England, Paris 7 Feb Ireland v Scotland, Dublin 7 Feb

England v Wales, Twickenham 21 Feb Scotland v France, Murrayfield 21 Feb France v Ireland, Paris 7 Mar Wales v Scotland, Wembley 7 Mar Ireland v Wales, Dublin 21 Mar Scotland v England, Murrayfield 22 Mar England v Ireland, Twickenham 4 Apr Wales v France, Wembley 5 Apr **Tour Tests**

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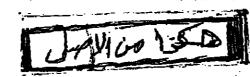
New Zealand v England Dunedin 20 Jun New Zealand v England Auckland 27 Jun South Africa v England, Cape Town 4 Jul European Cup final Bordeaux 31 Jan Tedey's Bitter Cup final, Twickenham 9 May

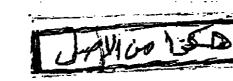
Scottish Cup final, Murrayfield 9 May Swalec Cup final, Cardiff 23 May

World Championship 18 Apr-4 May

Australian Open, Melbourne 19 Jan-1 Feb French Open, Paris 25 May-7 jun Wimbledon 22 jun-5 jul US Open, New York 31 Aug-13 Sep Davis Cup final 4-6 Dec

Winter Olympics Nagano, japan 7-22 Feb





(PLEASE CHECK TIMES WITH VENUES)

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 9772) Home Alone 3 1.10pm, 3.15pm h's A Wonderkil Life 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm L.A. Confidential 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) The Game 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm L.A. Confidential 20m. 5pm, 8om Mrs Brown Confidential 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Wilde 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.20pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) Chasing Amy 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm G.J. Jane 3.30pm, 8.15pm Keep The Aspidistra Flying 1.15pm, 6.05pm SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) Chasing Amy 2.15pm, 5.15pm (not Tue/Wed), 8.15pm Wilde 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) L'Appartement 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Marius Et Jeannette 1pm, 3.15om, 6om, 8.55om Ma Vie En Rose 1.10pm, 3.10m, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Will It Saow For Christmas? (Y-Aura-Til De La Neige A Noel?) 1.10pm,

3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) Spiceworld - The Movie 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 7.45pm, 9.55pm Starship Troopers 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Tomorrow Rever Dies 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

BARBICAN CINEMA (0171-382 7000) Regeneration 8.40pm Spiceworld - The Movie 11am (Sat), 3pm (Fri-Sun), 6.15pm The Wings Of The Dove 3pm (SurvMon),

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) The Tango Lesson 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) The Borrowers 12.45pm Starship Troopers 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Sweet Hereafter Sun 1.45pm Tomorrow Never Dies 4.15pm, 9.15pm The Wings Of The Dave 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm,

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) The Wings Of The Dove 1.45pm (not Sun), **CURZON PHOENIX (0171-369 1721)** Written On The Wind 2.15pm (not Sun), 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

CURZON WEST END (0171-439 4805) it's A Wonderful Life 2.40pm, 5.30pm,

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) The Borrowers Fri/Sat/Mon 1pm, 4.50pm; Sun/Tue-Thu 4.50pm George Of The Jungle Fri/Sat/Mon 1.30pm, 3.45pm; Sun/Tue-Thu 3.45pm 6.40pm, 8.50pm Starship Troopers Fri/Sat/Mon 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm; Sun/Tue-Thu 2.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm To-morrow Never Dies 5.45pm, 8.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SOLIARE (0171-437 1234) The Full Monty 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm (Fri-Sat) Seven Years In Tibet 12moon, 3pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm, 12.10am (Fri-Sat) Spiceworld – The Movie 11.30am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm, 11.30pm (Fri-Sat)

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) The Wings Of The Dove 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm, 11.15pm (Fri-Sat)

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) City Of

Wonderful Life 3pm, 6.30pm, 9pm NOTTING HILL COHONET (0171-727 **norrow Never Dies** Špm, 6pm,

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4255) Face/Off Fri-Sat 11.40pm George Of The Jungle 11.40pm, 1.40pm, 3.50pm Home Alone 3 11.45am, 2pm, 4.10pm It's A Wonderful Life 12.35pm, 6.05pm, It's A Wonderful Life 12.35pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm Jingle All The Way Sat 10am LA. Confidential 8.40pm Miracle On 34th Street (1994 Version) Sat 9.45am Tim Borton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Sat 9.40am One Night Stand 6.15pm, 11.40pm (Fri-Sat) Spiceworld The Movie 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.55am, 11.45am (Fri-Sat) Starebilo, 9.55am, 11.45am, 9.55am, 9.55am 9.25pm, 11.45pm (Fri-Sat) Starship Troopers 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm, 12midnight (Fri-Sat) Tomerrow Never Dies 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm, 13.40pm, GFI Sat)

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) Regeneration 2pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm **ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214)** Alien: Resurrection 9.45pm, 12.20am (Fri-Sat) The Borrowers 12.25pm, 2.45pm Cop Land 7.20pm George Of The Jungle 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Horcules 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.pm Hercules 12.10pm Home Alone 3 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.55pm I Know What You Did Last Summer 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 12.25am (Fri-Sat) L.A. Confi-dential 9.25pm Spiceworld – The Movie 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm, 12mkinight (Fri-Sat) Starship Troopers 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm, 12.15am (Fri-Sat) To-

6.40pm, 9.30pm, 12.20am (Fri-Sat) ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-915 4215) Tomorrow Never Dies 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm, 11.35pm (Fri-Sat)

morrow Never Dies 19m, 3.50pm,

er Dies 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm (Sat)

DDEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) **Starship Troopers** 12.15pm, 1.45pm, 3.05pm, 4.55pm, 6pm, 7.45pm, 8.50pm, 10.45pm (Sat), 11.45pm (Sat)

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0845-600 0505) Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (30) Fri, Sun, Mon, Wed, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm; also Sat, Tue, Thu 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Beavers Fri 11.30am Sat 10,30am, 4.30pm; also Sun 1.30pm, Sar 10,30am, 4,30pm, aso Stat 1,30pm, 5,30pm, Mon 11,30am, Tive, Thu 2,30pm, Wed 3,30pm **Bive Planet** Fri 3,30pm, 9,30pm, Sat 12,30pm, 6,30pm, 11,30pm; also Sun 9,30pm, Mon 5,30pm, Tue 4,30pm, 8,30pm, Wed 11,30am, 9,30pm, Thu 4,30pm, 10,30pm Grand Canyon – The Hidden Secrets Fri 5.30pm, Sat 8.30pm; also Sun 11.30am, 3.30pm, Mon, Wed 1.30pm, 7.30pm, Tue 12.30pm, Thu 10.30am, 6.30pm Thrill Ride - The Science Of Fun Fri 1.30pm, 7.30pm, 11.30pm Sat 2.30pm, 10.30pm; Sun 7.30pm, Mon 3.30pm, 9.30pm, Tue 10.30am, 6.30pm, 10.30pm, Wed 5.30pm, Thu 12.30pm, 8.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) The Tango Lesson Fri/Sat/Mon-Thu
2.10pm (not Sat/Tue). 4.25pm, 6.40pm,
8.50pm (not Fri, Sat/Mon); Sun 6.40pm
Annie Hall Sat 2pm Keep The Aspidistra Flying Tue 2.15pm Ma Vie En Rose
Sun 2.30pm + City Of Lost Children
4.15pm The Mannet Christmas Card Sat 4.15pm The Muscoel Christmas Carol Sat

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) The Born Cop Land, I Know What You Did Last Summer, One Night Stand Phone for times RENOER (0171-837 8402) Kitchen (Wo



High-octane melodrama: Rock Hudson and Dorothy Malone Douglas Sirk's re-released Written on the Wind

ODEON MARKELE ARCH (0181-315 4216) The Borrowers 11.50am, 1,55pm Cop and to Wed 6.15pm, 8.50pm, 11.45pm (Fri-Sat): Thu 9.50pm George Of The Jungle 11.35am, 1.50pm, 4pm Home Alone 3 11.35am, 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm LA. Hal 8.50cm Spiceworld – The Movie 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm (Fri-Set) Starship Troopers 12.05pm, 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11.55pm (Fri-Sat) Tomorrow Never Dies 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm, 11.50pm (Fri-Sat)

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) Alien: Resurrection 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Bean 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm Face/Off 2.15pm (not Sat/Sun), 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Full Monty 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Hercules Sat/Sun 1.15pm, 3.15pm The Tango Lesson 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) The Borrowers Frl. Sun-Thu 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm; Sat Women Sat/Sun 6pm Close-Up 3pm (Sat/Sun), 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Fellini's Casanova Sat/Sun 8.30pm Fellini's Casanova Sat/Sun 8.30pm Fellini's A Director's Notebook Thu 6.30pm, 8.30pm + Short I Vitelloni Mon-Wed 6.30pm Laa Strada Mon-Wed 8.30pm Laa Strada Mon-Wed 8.30pm Laa Strada Mon-Wed 8.30pm Laa Cappm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, Sat 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, Sat 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, Sat 2.10pm, 4.0pm, 7.05pm Home Alone 3 Fri, Sun-Thu 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.9pm, Sat 1.30pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.0pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.0pm, 5.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.30pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.30pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.30pm, 6.45pm; I Know What You Did Las Summer Fri, Sun-Thu 8.45pm Sat 1.30pm, 6.45pm; Sat 1.30pm; Sat

Ai Chutang) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Tango Lesson 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) The Wings Of The Dove 3.45pm (not Sat/Sun/Tue), 6.15pm, 8.45pm L'Appartement (The Apartment) Sun 3.45pm The Borrowers Sat 2pm, 4.15pm; Tue 4.15pm Boy Meets Girl (Carax Version) Sun 1.45pm + L'Appartement Quadrophenia Sat 11.15pm + Writinali And I The Secret Garden Sat 11am

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121) The Bor-

RHTZY CRIEMA (0171-737 2121) The Borrowers Sat/Sun 11.30am (Sat), 1.30pm, 4.30pm (Sat) Carrington Sun 4.10pm George Of The Jungle Sat/Sun 1.10pm Home Atone 3 11.45am (Sat), 2pm (Sat/Sun), 4.15pm Kitchen (Wo Ai Chufang) 4.10pm (Sat/Sun), 6.40pm, 9.15pm, 11.40pm (Fri, Sat) The Muppet Christmas Carol Sat 10.30am The Pagemaster Sat 10.30am Regeneration 1.25pm (not Sat/Sun), 4pm (not Sat/Sun), 6.35pm (not Sat/Sun), 4pm (not Sat/Sun), 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.50pm (Fri, Sat) Starship Troopers 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.45pm (Fri, Sat) Tomorrow Never Dies 1.20pm (not Sat/Sun), 3.55pm (not Sat/Sun), 6.30pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm (Fri, Sat) Ulysses' Gaze Fri-Sat/Mon-Thu Ipm Wilde Sun 2.05pm The Wings Of The Dove 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm (Fri, Sat)

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-486 0036) The Borrowers 3.05pm Starship Troopers 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Wings Of The Dove 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm,

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) The Wings Of The Dove 3.40pm. 6.40pm, 8.55pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) The Wings Of The Dove 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 11.15pm (Sat)

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3332) Alien: Resurrection Phone for details The Borrowers 10.20am (Fri-Sun), 12.10pm. 2.25pm, 4.35pm Cop Land Phone for de-tals The Full Monty Phone for details George Of The Jungle Phone for details Hercules Fri-Sun 10.15am Home Alone 3 11.15am (Fri-Sun), 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm I Know What You Did Last Sum-mer 7.30pm, 9.50pm L.A. Confidential Phone for details One Night Stand Phone for details Spiceworld - The Movie 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm **Starship Troopers** Fri-Sun 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm; Mon-Thu 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm Tomorrow Never Dies 12.40pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm,

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0181-970 6010) The Full Monty 2pm (not Fir-Sun). 4.40pm (not Fir-Sun), 7pm, 9.10pm George Of The Jungle Fir-Sun 1.40pm Home Alone 3 Fri-Sun 1.20pm, 3.40pm Spiceworld – The Movie 12.30pm (Fri-Sun), 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm Starship Troop-ers 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Temorrow Never Dies 1.30pm (not Fri-Sun), 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 2.20pm 6.50pm, 9.30pm

Virgin Fullham Road (0181-970 6011) The Borrowers Fri-Sun 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm I Know What You Did Last Summer 1.50pm (not Fri-Sun), 4.10pm (not Fri-Sun), 6.40pm, 9.15pm H's A Wonderful Life 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.45pm LA. Confidential 2.20pm. 5.20pm, 8.15pm Spiceworld Movie 11.30am (Fri-Sun), 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Tamorrow Never Dies 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm The Wings Of The Bove 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

Virgin Hammersmith (0181-970 6026) The Borrowers 12.10pm (Fn-Sun), 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm Home Aloge 3 1pm, 3.15pm I Know What You Did Last Summer 8.50pm Spiceworld — The Movie 12ncon (Fri-Sun), 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Starship Troopers 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm, 11.45pm (Sat) Tomorrow Never Dies 6pm. 9pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0181-970 6016) The Full Monty 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm L.A. Confidential 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The Wings Of The Dove 1.10pm, 3.40pm,

VINGIN TROCADERO (0181-970 6015) Alien: Resurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm (Fri-Sat) The Borrowers 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm Cop Land 9.10pm, 11.40pm (Fri-Sat) Face/Off 8.50pm, 11.45pm (Fri-Sat) George Of The Jungle 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm Home Alone 3 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm (Knew What You Did Last Summer 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 12midnight (Fri-Sat) One Night Stand 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm (Fri-Sat) Spiceworld - The Movie 12noon, 1pm, 2.20pm, 3.20pm, 4.40pm, 5.50pm 7pm, 8.10pm, 9.20pm, 11.40pm (Fri-Sat)

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4347) The Borrowers 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm Contact 6.15pm Cop Land 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am (Fri-Sun) Face/Off 9.10pm, 12midnight (Fri-Sun) George Of The Jungle 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm G.I. Jane Fri-Sun 11.50pm Home Alone 3 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm I Know What You Did Last Summer Ved), 9.30pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm (not Wed), 9.30pm, 12.10am (Fri-Sun) LA. Conflidential 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 12midnight (Fri-Sun) A Life Less Ordinary 9.05pm, 11.40pm (Fri-Sun) My Best Friend's Wedding 9.20pm One Night Stand 1.50pm, 4.10pm (Fri-Sun), 6.30pm (not Mon), 8.50pm, 11.30pm (Fri-Sun) Prince Vallant 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Scream SaVSun late 11.40pm The Wings Of The Dove 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm



Space cadets vs battling Bugs

giggled my way through Starship Troopers, and at the end I still wasn't sure exactly what I had been laughing at. It's a broad spoof of warpropaganda - an exercise in gung-ho-ho.

It would be incorrect to say that the film works on many different levels, since it rarely works at all, though you might say that it is open to a baffling number of different interpretations. It appears both to celebrate and satirise the blond-haired, blue-cycd space cadets who are dispatched from their futuristic fascist homeland to battle the Bugs. giant killer arachnids bent on universal domination.

The director, Paul Verhoeven, devotes much of the film to these cadets and their boring, competitive. Beverly Hills 90210 lives, ticking off a checklist of the components of teenage soap opera: the love triangles, the parental conflict. even the bland colours and prosaic camerawork. You don t care when most of the characters get sliced to ribbons in the second half, and Verhoeven doesn't want you to - it's just a big. perverse joke. You go with it or you don't. And even if you do, it can still leave you feeling lousy, like the worst sitcoms or fast food.

FILM ROUND-UP BY RYAN GILBEY

There are no punchlines, though the violence has a brutal comic kick, and there is some self-consciously awful dialogue that recalls the film's influences - Them and The Blob, and the recent Tremors. The funniest sections are the television broadcasts advising citizens on how they can do their bit for the war effort, though these are hasically the same routines that spiced up Verhoeven's earlier film Robocop. Starship Troopers can be very unsparing in its satire, but what it lacks is any purpose; it gets so that all you're laughing at is the film's

behind its mean-spirited pose. Here and there, you can detect Verhoeven's subversive tendencies jostling for space. His wittiest film, The Fourth Man. is shirtless young hero gets a publie lashing and Verhoeven wrings out every last sweaty drop of homo-eroticism from the scene. And the Bugs themselves are agreeably nasty, lungeing and jabbing with their seissor-blade limbs, swarming over the horizon like a platoon

knowingness - there's nothing

nervous breakdown. of Swiss army knives. The battle

ture crupts, covering innocent bystanders in a snot-and-bolognese chowder. It's like hard-core pornography for Rentokil men. If you're looking for something soothing after Starship Troopers, don't turn for comfort to the re-release of Douglas Sirk's intoxicating 1956 melodrama Written on the Wind. Although the film is a lush, over-ripe little masterpiece, it

remains something of a relief

scenes provide flashes of pure.

vicious slapstick - when a Bug

swallows a grenade, there's

even a cartoon gulping noise on

the soundtrack before the crea-

that they don't make 'em like this any more - if they did, we would all be on the verge of a

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Robert Stack plays the reckless, impotent son of an oil tycoon, with Lauren Bacall as his long-suffering wife, Dorothy Malone as the kid sister who seeks solace in any old arms, and Rock Hudson as Stack's best pal, all of them caught up in a violent emotional tornado. It's a film to convince you of two things: Douglas Sirk was a genius; and there's always somebody worse off than you.

'Starship Troopers' (cert 15) is on general release from today. Written on the Wind' (PG) is at the Everyman, Hampstead, and Curzon Phoenix from today, and at the NFT from 9 January.





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"lain Softley's direction is

FLAWLESS, THE PHOTOGRAPHY AND

COSTUMES RAVISH THE EYE."

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'NOT ONLY GORGEOUS TO LOOK AT, BUT ALSO SEXY, INTELLIGENT AND UTTERLY ABSORBING." Marie Cualre

HELENA BONHAM CARTER LINUS ROACHE ALISON ELLIOTT

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المكذا من الاعل

15/FILMS

Looking at the horizon to see what lies beyond



Don't look now: Softley in Venice, ideal for passionate trysts

The director of 'The Wings of the Dove' artfully strips this period film - and its inhabitants - of convention. Nick Hasted meets lain Softley, the man who likes to work on the edge.

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When Iain Softley travels through time, he doesn't want you to notice. In his first film Backbeat (1994), he stripped back three decades of Beatles mythology to show their early years as a Hamburg pub band, pulled you in to their primal energy. In his second, Hackers (1995), he tried to predict the future, the music and manners of the digital underground 18 months ahead, when the film he was making would open. Soundtracked by the likes of The Prodigy and Leftfield, swimming ges, it was too prescient, and crashed. Now he's in 1910, with The Wings of directors would be crushed by period trappings. Softley has ripped through them. In its story about a doomed love triangle, of a helpless passion between young people abroad, he saw a story he wanted to tell young people to-

"These films usually have a rather fetishistis, collector's view of the past." Softley observes, doubtless with Merchant-Ivory in mind. "They're usually limited to an older, more genteel audience. Wings of the Dove was written by Henry James, a classical author. But the story itself is about young people, it's about people who have sexual desires, frustrations, end are hungry for each other, are hungry for opportunity and life. There's something very

One of the things that made this period alien to me was the sense that these people were caged in formality'

vibrant about the story. And so the fact that it could be executed in a way that turns off people the same age as the people in it seems

The casting of Bonham Carter is almost a metaphor for Softley's intentions, her corseted image unbuttoned, literally, in her first nude scene, and in a performance of confused, aggressive desire that already has her tipped for an Oscar. "One of the things that made this period alien to me was the sense that these people were caged, in corsets or etiquette, hats or formal greetings," Softley admits. "But you can sense in the novel that, underneath the veneer of the manners of the age, the same pulses were beating. We've chosen moments which are similar to our time - a girl coming to her boyfriend's apartment unchaperoned, and lying on the bed, or hidden in a lift in the Underground, where characters can grah each other physically."

Softley, a 39-year-old who looks younger, and whose pre-Backbeat background was in pop videos, is no Merchant-Ivory manqué. The thing that links his films isn't the fact of their travels through time, but the points at which they alight. In Backbeat, it was Astrid Kirchherr, the free-thinking female photographer loved by "Fifth Beatle" Stuart Sutcliffe, who engaged him. In The Wings of the Dove, too, Bonham Carter's sexuality is at the cusp of what's possible, just ahead of society. In Hackers, most daringly, Softley tried to document times just before they happened. In each film he's been drawn to places on the edge. Hamburg or Venice or cyberspace, places of possibility. It's a tendency he's aware of, a clue to who he is.

"I think people are more alive and interesting if they are at the vanguard of their time, and fight against conventions," he says. There are moments when there is a sense of things being possible. These ebb and flow, but it's the point when they come to a head that I always want to show. There are always people who are suppressing desire and aspiration. There are always pressures for people to act in a particular way. I'm most interested in characters who question and discover the world for themselves. I think it's an admirable, invigorating human quality."

In Hackers, Softley absorbed himself in characters with a sort of second sight, teenagers who could see under the skin of 1990s New York, to the playground of its phone wires. In Backbeat and The Wings of the Dove, it's the sensual place behind the pubthe Dove, and Helena Bonham Carter. Most lic veneer that obsesses him. Does he think the official view of culture in any period is necessarily dull, a sort of shell - that there's always an exciting essence underneath? "I think there is in people's heads," he says.

"There are times in everybody's life when they've been to a party or a club or a gig. and it's just been magic, for a moment, and that's the reason why people listen to music, why it's so pervasive." Is that moment in his films? "I hope so. Because, when it hits me, there's nothing like it."

The sense of swimming against the tide in Softley's characters is close to his heart. When he first tried to break into the film world in the 1980s, his face didn't fit. A product of the West London suburbs, his politely-spoken, middle-class persona wasn't made for times when film-makers were obliged to be, he remembers, "socially or regionally extreme". Wanting to be a film-maker at all was a blow against his background. He remembers a childbood when the excitement of Beatles records and the romance of hitch-hiking to festivals, and of London itself, took hold. But he still felt trapped on a path that would take him straight from school to Cambridge. So he broke away, for a year, and went to France. He didn't phone his parents once. He saw it as an experiment, an attempt to survive on his wits. He picked grapes, taught, painted, lived in the Midi, then Paris. "It was interesting to be somewhere where I didn't have any relationship to anybody," he remembers, "and where I didn't know what was going to happen next. It was an attempt to break free. It was an adventure."

The characters in all his films go to places where they're on their own, where they can define themselves. Does he think the step he took by going to France still fuels his work? "I know it does. When I wrote Backbeat, I was interested in the sense of arriving in Hamburg, and how no assumptions are made about you, there's no history. I actually went back to Paris to write it. There is something about those journeys, when you have to break out. Something happened to John Lennon and Stuart Sutcliffe when they left the back streets of Liverpool. They wouldn't have become The Beatles if they'd stayed. You define who you are more clearly by going away.

"I remember when I was a child, when I saw the view from the top of a hill, there was always something that fascinated me about it. I always wanted to go to what was over the horizon. It's almost nomadic, that search for something, until you realise that perhaps it's never there. I think that time in your life, when you're travelling and working out what you're going to do with yourself, is a time of great pain, but a time that you look back on as golden as well. There's something tragic about the way we change. The person I was 10 years ago is no longer there. That's in all the stories I'm telling, too."

THE BIG **PICTURE**



RYAN GILBEY

There should be another term by which we might describe film adaptations of novels that drastically reinterpret the source text. With a picture like The Wings of the Dow, the credit "based on the novel by Henry James" just isn't appropriate - it suggests an almost logical progression, as though the ideas and themes contained within the novel were being taken up by the screenwriter in a kind of literary relay race, which patently isn't the case. "Inhabited by the novel by Henry James" would be nearer the mark. You couldn't argue that The Wings of the Dove was faithful to its source in any conventional sense, though it displays another sort of loyalty - it feels like a dream about James's novel, rather than an adaptation of it, which is perhaps the only sensible way for a filmmaker to approach this most famously interior of writers.

The director Iain Softley (see interview, left) specialises in films about little surrogate families - he made Backbeat, which depicted the early days of the Beatles, and Hackers, a light comedy about a renegade band of computer nerds. It should be a credit to those earlier pictures, rather than a slur on The Wings of the Dove, to say that Softley treats James's trio of tortured souls with the same breezy generosity that he dished out to Lennon and Co, or the cyber-boffins. He has a loose, discreetly daring style that won't upset those viewers who have come to marvel at the posh frocks, but which contravenes the polite objectivity of the traditional costume drama all the same.

Sometimes he can jolt you out of your seat with a single well-timed effect - a soccer ball falls toward the camera. which then switches position to watch it complete its journey to earth; in another scene, two women leaf through pornographic books, and as Softley zooms in on the crude illustrations, their cheeky snickers grow obscenely rambunctions until you realise that it's actually the premature laughter of the party guests in the next scene that you can hear. The use of sound is also subunnerving during a Venetian carnival scene, where the camera prowls across the water, surveying a traffic jam of gondolas in which figures in death masks huddle in the darkness, while the soundtrack comes alive with an urgent percussive rhythm that sounds like a bag of bones being rattled. You can feel Softley's delight in unnerving his audience. though he doesn't always try for a sinister effect - early on, there's a lovely comic edit which is very nearly a Godardian jump-cut, where Kate Croy (Helena Bonham Carter) is standing in her lover's doorway one moment, and is sprawled across his bed the next. "Gagging for it" might not be a phrase that practically flashing in neon above every character in the film.

The picture shifts the action of the novel forward by eight years to 1910. which gives Softley the chance to pull off two key scenes whose visual potency rests on locations and props specif-



A large blue feather to tickle our sensibilities

ic to the era. The film opens in a seedy in her chamber – at the beginning of the ly reveals her plan to unite Merton and this bold effect is only a whisker away from having Kate trot in wearing a platinum wig and a hadge proclaiming "Femmes fatales do it in stilettos", but the brashness feels thrillingly rude and

If Kate's entrance doubles as a statement of intent from Softley, then what follows feels as if he and his screenwriter, Hossein Amini, were scribbling graffiti in the margins of the novel. Kate tempts her lover, the journalist Merton Densher (Linus Roache), into an elevator, where their clinch immediately punctures that faut sexual tension that is characteristic of James. As you watch Kate and Merton writhing behind the cropped up in James's novel, but it's lift's iron shutters, it becomes clear that Softley and Amini are not prepared to he coy about the extent to which these characters are trapped by passion. The film is full of images of imprisonment. self-imposed or otherwise. There are repeated shots of Merton being denied access to a woman who remains ensconced

plumage on Kate's hat. It may be that or, as Kate watches from her window; lewdness about it. Having learnt the art later, he receives the same treatment when he arrives to visit Milly (Alison Elliott), the dying American heiress with whom he has travelled to Venice as an unwitting pawn in Kate's get-rich-quick scheme. One of the final shots is of Kate curled naked on Merton's bed, an image which might suggest rebirth if it weren't filmed through the bars of the

> There has been a considerable attempt made to blunt the abrasive edges of Kate's personality, though it is to the credit of Helena Bonham Carter that this is not entirely convincing. The screenplay often seems to be preoccupied with fulfilling PR duties on Kate's behalf, but Bonham Carter secures your attention, and even affection, without necessarily being likeable.

bedstead, transforming Kate's sanctu-

ary into her prison.

She is lit like a skeleton, the severe angles of her cheekbones carving through the stark white light that falls "The Wings of the Dove' (cert 15) is on on her face. Even before Kate explicit-

London Underground carriage, where picture, he is turned away from Kate's Milly, so that she and Merton may bena cluster of murky brown suits and door on the orders of her aunt, who wish- efit from Milly's will, her most apparbowlers is interrupted by the blue es her to wed a more respectable suit- ently charitable act has an unsavoury of matchmaking from observing the mu itary manoeuvres of her aunt, Kate deposits Merton and Milly in front of Gustav Klimt's Danaē, as though the painting itself might act as an aesthetic aphrodisiac. The scene has only been made possible by the screenplay's shift in time - Klimt did not complete the painting until 1908 - but it works against the film's idea of Kate as essentially sympathetic, and actually brings the character closer in line with James's conception of her. The choice of this painting is significant on an immediate level because of the striking resemblance that the flame-haired actress Alison Elliott bears to Danaë - it is as though Kate were inviting Merton to imagine Milly stripped and lost in desire like Danaē, even as the timid Milly herself looks on oblivious, a pathetic gooseberry in her own seduction.

general release from today.



The killers we indulge, and those we don't



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It's the time of year when the baggage of memory gets ransacked. A lot must be left behind, and so, for the sake of health, it should be. Recollection of yesterday's quarrels fade. New paradigms establish themselves. Labour becomes, in Harold Wilson's phrase, the natural party of government by dint of being there and looking comfortable with it (though the latest cabinet papers remind us yet again how unnatural the exercise of power remained tor Wilson himself). Yesterday's political villains start to look benign. The lean and hungry Portillos put on weight, metaphorically speaking. One day, even, people will play back their tape of him on election night and sympathise rather than cheer.

Selective amnesia is good mental hygiene, but how to decide what to junk? At what point do we not only forget, but in forgetting start to forgive? The latter half of the 20th century has seen many examples of a curious transformation. Yesterday's freedom fighter, today's statesman.

This process already applies to Northern Ireland. Just before Christmas one of the men convicted for planting the Brighton bomb - which, let's not forget. nearly murdered most of the Cabinet (and crippled Lord Tebbit's wife) - was allowed out of prison on leave. Yet the tabloids' attempt to whip up a storm came to nothing. Most people evidently feel the passage of time has washed away the horror of it. The public's amnesia is, however. highly selective. If some extra-historical "objective" scale of personal culpability could be constructed, Myra Hindley might look no more guilty than other murderers subsequently released well before their dotage. But her crime elicited a special response; it was classified as evil. IRA bombers who conspired to kill and succeeded in killing many more than Hindley go free: to kill for a cause, however questionable, appears to stimulate forgiveness, or at the very least, acceptance.

In Italy, we report today, moves are

afoot to grant indulgence to many of those jailed as a result of the wave of terrorism during the 1970s and early 1980s. Then. in pursuit of the destabilisation of Christian Democrat hegemony, Italian politicians were assassinated (the discovery of Aldo Moro's body in a car boot is still a sharp visual image); public order was assaulted, most memorably by the bomb at Bologna railway station. These crimes - carried out by the extreme right as well as the left - were political. At the time and since, many Italians have believed the state was complicit, that secret service units collaborated in terror. That seems to have generated a public wish for reconciliation. Romano Prodi's centre-left coalition government, the first Italian government in which the participation of Communists has been allowed, even if they now call themselves the Democratic Party of the Left, desperately wants to move away from the robber state which the Christian Democrats and the Socialists presided over.

Amnesty in Italy thus becomes a way of affirming modernisation. But how just does that grand sentiment appear to a relative of one of the Bologna victims? Would an Italian government ever think forgivingly of the mafiosi that the Italian courts have managed to convict, when their colleagues continue to subvert law and good order across wide swaths of Sicily and Calabria and, still, taint the state itself?

A parallel process has been under way in Germany. There the courts, press and opinion have grappled confusedly with reconciliation in the aftermath of reunification. At the same time a programme of rehabilitation for the political terrorists of the late 1960s and 1970s of the Red Army Fraction and the Baader-Meinhof stamp is under way. Ulrike Meinhof may be dead, but her sisterly conspirators emerge from jail, never quite managing to meet the eyes of the relatives of the guards, business people and others they killed. Germany is willing to forget this part of the past, even

though Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrats' heir apparent, is confined to a wheelchair as a result of terrorist assault. Two wedding it's back in fa

But how offensive would it be if Germans sought also to forget another part of their past, the one that ended in 1945? Public opinion in Britain, and in the United States, vehemently answers that they must never forget the Holocaust. The trial of Maurice Papon in Bordeaux showed last year that for many in France there is a class of historical crimes for which no statute of limitations can exist, which can never be washed white in the milk of amnesia. But then there are genocides and genocides. Those responsible for mass murder among the trees of equatorial Africa are not disbarred from appearing as national leaders invited to shake the hands of IMF officials and British ambassadors.

Not only do the waters of Lethe run deep, they run also in strange and various

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

JEVVA FEEL LAKE YOU'RE IN A

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KAYNDOVA



Sir: "What reasons," asks Donald MacIntyre, "would now justify the [Liberal Democrats'] stubborn refusal of [cabinet] office?" ("Why Blair will soon invite Ashdown into the Cabinet", 30 December). Let

me give two. First, the history of coalition governments under a first-pastthe-post (FPTP) electoral system shows that, at the subsequent election, the perceived electoral choice is for the government (vote for the larger party) or against it (vote for the opposition). The smaller coalition partner suffers heavily from a loss of its distinct identity. So a coalition could only be based, so far as the Liberal Democrats are concerned, on a cast-iron commitment to a reformed electoral system being in place before the next general election.

Second, Mr MacIntyre answers his own question with his next words: "Blair is now impatient to gather together the collective anti-Tory forces while he is ahead". The worst way forward for British politics would be the combination of a single party containing "all the sensible people" on the one hand and the continuation of a FPTP electoral system on the other as, by definition, sooner or later some non-sensible party would win.

The better way is to embrace the pluralism inherent in a reformed electoral system, and recognise that there is at present, within British politics, a spectrum of five parties (six in Scotland and Wales), with the Conservatives fundamentally split between the English Nationalists on the one hand and a Christian Democrat-type strand on the other, and the Labour Party divided between "New Labour" and the "Tyrannosaurus Tendency". "Gathering together the anti-Tory forces" under a FPTP electoral system is precisely the opposite of that pluralism. PHILIP GOLDENBERG

Woking, Surrey

Sir: Derek Cole's claim (letter, 31 December) that Keynes and Beveridge would have opposed the Government's welfare reforms is longer on speculation than on evidence.

Keynes's central insight was that economies were cyclically unstable. He believed the state should try to stabilise economic activity by means of fiscal

PRIESTLEY policy - with the implication that public revenues and expenditure should balance over the course of the business cycle. In the sixth year of recovery, the Government is, if anything, not being tough enough on public spending to meet the criteria of Key-

nesian stabilisation policy. The axiom of the Beveridge Report was that of social insurance, not redistribution: benefits would be funded by contributions and supplemented by a welfare "safety net" for those whose incomes fell below a certain level. There was no plan to establish a structural budget deficit generated by expenditure on an expanding system of welfare

The principle of welfare reform is wholly in line with liberal thinking, and is supported by independent-minded figures of both main parties, such as Frank Field and Chris Patten, and of none, such as George Walden and Martin Bell. It is the curious and essentially reactionary alliance of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour rebels that has abandoned Kevnes and Beveridge. OLIVER KAMM

Sir: Donald MacIntyre remarks that, like Tony Blair, Lloyd George was "fundamentally unsympathetic to the wastefulness of two parties competing for the same territory in the centre and centre left".

From the Liberal point of view - and over the entire 20th century, Labour's too - it was Lloyd George's arrogance that led to a century of Conservative Party domination. When the trade unionists approached Lloyd George to ask him to prosecute their case in Parliament, he sent them off with no firm commitment. They promptly decided to back Labour. Within a matter of years the Liberal Party was virtually extinguished. LESLEY ABDELA

IMF and debt policy

Sir: In her determination to castigate the rich countries for their "immoral" debt policies (Comment, 31 December), Diane Coyle seems to have forgotten that, during the 1980s, more than a half of the Third World's debts owed to the commercial banks were written off

Because of concerns that this process could in turn undermine the international financial system, much of the energy of the IMF at that time was devoted to arranging rescue packages for the most heavily indebted developing countries.

Since South Korea currentappears to be experiencing a liquidity problem rather than a fundamental imbalance in its external accounts, the IMF is correct in seeking to prevent a financial collapse that could have a domino effect on other Asian countries. NIGEL WILKINS London SW7

Sir: What confronts us in South Korea could be seen as two failed imports from the West, namely Communism and capitalism. The first is almost history and there's a lot to be said

for dismantling the second. The capitalist system has trapped us all in a vicious circle in which insatiability of demand has become an economic imperative, the alternative being collapse of production and loss of jobs. Hence the rumour is that the Koreans may flood the world with cheap exports to deal with their "over-capacity". Post-Kyoto, perhaps they can make a virtue out of necessity

by offering us a glut of cut-price. low-energy light bulbs. D W EVANS

Equal opportunities

Sir: I write to clarify the Equal Opportunities Commission's position on possible priority for women in the selection of prospective parliamentary candidates ("Equality law could bring more female MPs", 29 December). The EOC has no proposals for the current legislation to be changed to per-

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

mit this. The EOC will not be advising the Government next month that the Sex Discrimination Act could be amended to allow parties to give priority to women. Our view is that the law is unclear and, even if the SDA is amended, it will not remove the possibility of a chal-

lenge under European Law. The EOC has developed proposals for amendments to the sex equality laws which have been in place for 22 years. In the course of our consultation we will also be seeking views on the use of positive discrimination in employment and in the selection of prospective parliamentary candidates. KAMLESH BAHL

Chairwoman Equal Opportunities

Cannabis arrests

Sir: The arrests of a Cabinet Minister's son, a journalist from the The Mirror and another man, for small cannabis offences illustrate the ineffectiveness and the injustice of the law that bans the plant.

The lad did what many other UK people do each day - pass a small amount of cannabis to someone who wants it. The annoying thing is that the cost, both economic and to police time, will all come out of the public pocket. To what end? Punishing someone for a crime without a victim. A fine example of British justice. TINA SMITH

Norwich, Norfolk

Sir: While it is hardly uncommon for political pressure to be applied to the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, it is increasingly uncommon for police to respond to possession of a small amount of cannabis (on a first offence) with any more than a caution. For Dawn Alford to be arrested and bailed until February while the CPS come to a decision on the case (report, 30 December) illustrates the extent to which the prosecution DAVID MANNION Colne, Lancashire

Emotional Major

Sir: You quote John Major as asserting that "politicians should never bare their emotions in public" ("Major likens Blair to Uriah Heep", 19 December).

Presumably, in Mr Major's book, irritation and anger at Prime Minister's Question Time do not count as emotions: or maybe he adopted this view when he ceased to be Prime Minister.

LOUIS CAZEAU Edgware, Middlesex

Suffolk home truth

Sir: As an East Anglian, I am never sure which side of the line we stand in any north/south divide (letters, 27 and 31 December).

May an uninvolved bystander merely mention the old saying "you can always tell a Yorkshireman, but you can't often tell him very much". Sadly, this frequently appears to be true. **GEOFFREY ELLIS**

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

teething problems. Tony Blair

goes on holiday in balloon be-

longing to Richard Branson.

Wefare refor

And now, a garlic for America, and a modest proposal for colonial contagion



KINGTON

Today we bring you the second and final part of our round-up of the events of the coming vear. Yesterday we brought you our forecast for January to June, so today, with uncanny precision, we carry on with ...

JULY '98. World Cup in full swing in France. Scotland knocked out by losing 6-5 to Jamaica, after leading 5-0 with 10 minutes to go. Scottish manager Craig Brown says: "It's the same old story. We have only ourselves to blame. We had it for the taking. Then we threw it away. I am sick to my boots. I think I am going to commit suicide. At least then I won't of restaurant writer Craig be confused with Craig Brown Brown stormed by angry Scot-

George Foreman announces another comeback. Tony Blair goes on holiday in Tuscan villa belonging to Spice Girls. First Test drawn. AUGUST '98. American sci-

entists announce that they have developed a genetically altered garlic plant which tastes of nothing and which will therefore appeal to the American palate. Production of Disney animated version of The Bible runs into trouble with ethnic minorities, because there are no black or Asian disciples, and because Jesus does not look Jewish enough. East Anglian house the restaurant writer." Boxer tish football fans, bitter about

ignominious Scots exit from World Cup. When informed of error, Scots fans apologise and say: "We got it wrong. It's the same old story. Sorry about that." John Major announces his comeback.

SEPTEMBER '98. ' American scientists announce they have developed a genetically altered tomato which will automatically fall apart in slices when picked, or even into fancy shapes. Tony Blair goes on holiday in Millennium Dome. American promoter Don King says that if the money is right. he will stage a spectacular George Foreman v. John Major comeback special. Many East German athletes are

their Olympic medals after jor. "Il murder him," says massive steroid abuse in the 1970s and 1980s is proved. Some British athletes who trailed in fourth and fifth get gold and silver. David Coleman breaks down in tears of joy. OCTOBER '98. A new. genetically improved strain of bird flu reappears in Hong Kong. It is not being passed on by poultry as no poultry are

left alive in Hong Kong. Therefore it is being passed on by humans. Therefore all humans in Hong Kong should be slaughtered, say world chicken lobby. No decision taken. "If our policies are right, I see no reason why we should not defeat Mr Foreman's outstripped retrospectively of moded vision, says John Ma-

Foreman. Ffion Hague gives birth to twins, Ffred and Ffrieda. More controversy over Disneys Bible film - Pope criticises Disney decision to omit Crucifixion and to have God played by Robin Williams as a Jewish father. ("You want to be a what? A saviour of the world? My son, the saviour? What kind of career is that for a bright boy?" etc etc). NOVEMBER '98 Titanic is finally raised, amid huge publicity. Unfortunately,

as it is being towed back to New York at night, it is struck by an unseen iceberg and sinks. Tony Blair invites Sir Elton John to join the Cabinet. "Money cannot buy his sort of

experience," he says. "Oh yes, it can," says Elton John. Manchester United loses for the first time in season. These are early days," says Alex Ferguson. John Major breaks a fingernail in training and the big fight is postponed. American scientist claims that obesity helps to prevent heart attacks. Russian scientist proves that the 21st century has already started. Spice Girls threaten to make come-

Secular knowledge

Sir: Paul Vallely may know a lot

about religion, but he doesn't

know much about irreligion,

if his two Christmas articles

(20 December) are anything to

themselves secularists since the

term was adopted in 1851 have

not advocated an "emphasis

upon individual self-interest" or

the "privatisation of morality".

let alone "nurtured" "nation-

alism". And it is nonsense to say

that we are "drawing on the

moral capital of centuries of a

Judaeo-Christian tradition in

which many of our secular

truths find their origin", or

that "secular liberalism" has no

structive debate with secular hu-

manism", as Paul Vallely hopes.

there must first be proper

Rationalist Press Association

knowledge of it.

NICOLAS WALTER

If there is to be "a con-

Those who have called

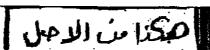
DECEMBER '98. Blessed Virgin Mary appears to a Portuguese peasant girl in a vision and tells her that she is, on balance, in favour of a single European currency, though there are bound to be ping. 1999 starts.

Scientists discover a new strain of flu bug which flourishes only in cars caught in traffic jams on the M25. Tony Blair defends his decision to invite Father Christmas to join Cabinet by saying: "Money cannot buy his experience of winter retail trade cycles." Blessed Virgin Mary reappears to peasant girl and urges her to get linked up to the Internet, as reappearing in these visions really takes it out of her. George Foreman falls asleep in third round; John Major disqualified for incessant talking. Snow. Floods. Last minute Christmas shop-









17/COMMENT

Two weddings and it's back in fashion



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MARKS JO AND HELEN SAY 'I DO'

It would be difficult to find two less likely converts to the state of wedded bliss than the actress Helen Mirren and the comedian Jo Brand. Mirren, despite her legions of middleaged admirers, always said she was not the marrying type. Brand has built a career around venomous sideswipes at the male of the species. Yet both, to general astonishment, took the phinge over the festive season.

Mirren wed her partner, the film director Taylor Hackman, in a remote church in the Scottish Highlands on New Year's Eve. Brand reportedly told friends via a line in their Christmas cards that she had just tied the knot with her boyfriend, Bernie Bourke, a psychiatric nurse.

Two very different women have become unexpected standard-bearers for the institution of marriage, bucking the trend of long-term decline in the number of couples prepared to tie the knot. What made Mirren recant, at the age of 51, after 12 years of cohabitation with Hackman? What was it that prompted Brand to boist the white flag and agree to share her bed with the enemy?

None of the conventional reasons apply. Neither of these successful and independent women needed a mate to provide a home, a raison d'être or financial security. Living in sin lost its stigma long ago. Nor are there children on the scene, the advent of which often acts as an incentive for couples in longterm relationships to renounce their ideological resistance to marriage. Mirren is well past child-bearing age and Brand, as far as one knows, is not pregnant.

Mirren's case is particularly interesting because it reflects a growing perception that a small social revolution is stirring. Despite the gloomy statistics, despite the number of times that marriage's obituary has been written; there is anecdotal evidence that the wedded state is creeping back into fashion. Couples, particularly older couples who may have been together for more than a decade, are conregister office and plighting their troth.

According to Oliver James, the clinical psychologist, hostility towards marriage is rooted in the parental example. If you abhor the values espoused by your parents, you reject the institution that they represent. But as people mature, he says, they tend to soften and grow more tolerant, and may end up emulating the generation that they once despised.

At 39, Brand, despite her bolshy, manhating image - one of her gags is "never trust a man with testicles" - is past the stage of youthful rebelliousness. Her own parents split up about 20 years ago. She had only been seeing Bourke for about a year but, like many offspring of broken homes, she may have craved the security conferred by a public affirmation of love and commitment. Perhaps the ticking of her biological clock had begun to deafen her. Maybe at heart she is just an old-fashioned, middle-class girl.

Mirren, who seems to grow more alluring with every year that passes, told the American magazine People only two months

ago that she could never see herself wearing a wedding ring. Not married before, and with no children, she was once quoted as saving: "I think marriage is a miraculous and wonderful thing. But, like lobster, it's just not to my taste. I don't see what everyone gets so excited about." Hackford, who shares a home with her in Los Angeles, had also said that he saw no need for nuptials.

Then they went ahead and did it after all. Perhaps Mirren, voted the sexiest woman on television earlier this year by Radio Times readers, held out for so long because, aware of her physical charms, she never felt the need to grab the first good man on offer. Maybe, given the soaring divorce rate, she feared failure - or, like many happily cohabiting couples, was anxious that marriage would change things, exert new and dangerous pressures that would end up wrecking a successful relationship.

Why walk up the aisle, in the face of so many compelling reasons to avoid that perilous trip? Virginia Ironside, The Independent's agony aunt, believes that some couples opt for marriage after years of living together in order to spice up a mundane relationship. "It's saying: 'let's take another risk with our ives together, let's get even closer'," she says.

The prognosis for such couples is, unfortunately, not rosy. Men and women who tie the knot after living together are far more likely to get divorced than those who dive





Here come the unlikely brides: Helen Mirren (top) and Jo Brand

straight into wedlock. Virginia Ironside thinks that some underestimate the impact that getting married will have on their lives. "It's a huge step," she says. "People don't take account of the enormous difference that marriage makes to a relationship. The outside world sees you in a very different light, and you're not prepared for that."

Mirren and Brand have decided to ignore the doom merchants, and are instead taking their one from the ancient Greeks. For, as one passage in Homer's Odyssey has it: "There is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends." Why did these two women decide to get married at this point in their lives? Perhaps no one ever asked them before.

They're so out of it they can't face reality (the law-makers, that is)



SUZANNE MOORE A STATE OF DENIAL

Here I am back in the land of freedom and reason, having just returned from a few days in Iceland (a real nanny state), and what do I find but an unbelievable muddle about a tenquid deal in a pub. It all makes me want to inhale. Inhale, as in a sharp intake of breath. I realise, of course, that even to use the word is controversial in these zero-tolerance days. If you ask me - and why would you, when my mind has been addled by substances that cabinet minister X's son can only dream about - Tony Blair's joke that unlike Clinton, had he smoked dope he would have inhaled reveals him to be not a great wit, but something of a social

Obviously, had any member of the Cabinet ever inhaled, they would not be doing the good works that they are now, such as swiping money from lone mothers. Instead they would be kicking their doors down to nick their videos. Had any tabloid journalists ever inhaled, they would not be able to uphold the standards of investigative journalism that we so value, as they would be too busy dealing in lowlife misery and sin. Had any police officers ever inhaled they would not be able to exercise such clear judgement as they have in this case. And had any government spin doctors ever attended what is bizarrely being referred to as have become totally detached from reality, and be living in some hazy world of their own. Thank goodness none of

this has happened, and that we have such a sensible drugs policy, and that everyone is being so responsible. The minister concerned has responsibly made his son confess, the tabloid reporter has responsible had the hash tested to make sure she got her money's worth. the editor concerned has responsibly told us that the young man is into drugs in "a fairly alarming manner". The father wants to be named, but he would be breaking the law. even though everyone has a shrewd idea who he is anyway. We cannot have him breaking the law just because his son has, and we certainly cannot question the law even though it is obviously not a very sensible one.

The excuse for all this sanctimonious twaddle and hypocrisy is that it is being done in the name of protection. Children must be protected from drugs even though nearly half of them by the age of 15 will have tried cannabis anyway. The Government must protect the minister concerned. The boy's identity must be proally as far removed from real

tected although it has been so hinted at that it will soon become common knowledge. To protect someone is to assume responsibility for them, rather than letting them make up their own mind: thus responsibility - a favourite word of this clean and sober administration - must be assumed at all guaranteed. Parents are responsible for

the misdemeanours of their children, even when these children are nearly adult. They are responsible when they will not go to school and do had things, because the state wants to shift responsibility away from itself and back onto parents. Fair enough. But the paradox is that the state itself is responsible for telling us that it is us and not they who are now to be held responsible. Is it possible to impose a sense of responsibility in

Well, it it is, then how can the same state now allow us to be responsible for what we choose to inhale? Yet again, all talk of the decriminalisation of cannabis, a sensible and often dull dehate, is being overshadowed by hysteria about drugs in general. The spectre of drug-related crime has been raised. Show me what crimes are committed by monged-out dope smokers and middle-class puffers, apart from the odd bit of shoplifting, and I will begin to take this seriously. Otherwise, why cannot politicians brought up in the 1960s make the distinction between different kinds of drugs that 15-year-olds make with ease? Are those in government re-

life as they appear? One hoped that a younger government would not continue to perpetuate the feeling that its members do not know much about the country they are governing. Once more there appears to be ed out-of-touch warriors fighting a war on drugs that their counterparts in America admit they have already lost, that is full of imagery about evil pushers and horrible addicts, that has Leah Betts as its patron saint of ignorance, that believes prohibition works contrary to all the evidence, that cannot recognise its own children and when it finally does. hauls them down to the police station. This is the nation that is out of control, that has got itself into the fine mess that the minister is in today. These are the people we should be concerned about - the sad deluded souls who cannot deal with

reality except by ignoring it. The other nation just does its own illegal thing. It knows that Noel Gallagher was being truthful when he said that for some people taking drugs was



sit down with the son that has caused him all this trouble and say, not "you are stupid", but "you are ordinary"? How can politicians, never mind their much of the music that it likes pressurised children, admit that could not be made without inthey have also made mistakes? haling. It also made "The Cannabis does not lead to hard Drugs Don't Work" a number drugs any more than being the child of a politician leads to soft one hit. It has an independent mind because it knows that neither the media nor the Gov-Honesty is the only way, but emment tells the truth about drugs. It knows that eestasy

our terribly responsible law will not allow it. Sometimes the only way to change the law is to break it, but that is not an option for a cabinet minister. Those in power who speak of any kind of drug-taking as a way of avoiding reality should consider that they have themselves alities cannot properly be faced. I worry about those people. They are so completely out of it that they cannot see what is in front of their faces; their wasted lives are full of empty promises. One day they will deal with the drugs problem. Meanwhile their own children just begin to communicate with deal with it. Failing that, they just deal.

Welfare reform? We really don't have any choice



KEN JACKSON LABOUR AND **NECESSITY**

on reforming welfare. Labour was elected to modernise Britain, not to defend the status quo. And just as Labour was trusted in 1945 to build the welfare state, now it is entrusted with its reform. As we have seen in recent weeks, some in Labour's ranks are uncomfortable with change. They always are. But we cannot afford to let them derail the reform that Tony Blair has rightly set in train. Those of us who remain committed to the welfare state know that there is no other option.

The simple truth is that our system of welfare does not work. It does not deliver help to those most in need. It does not help us fight the war on poverty. And it has lost sight of the values upon which it was founded. Responsibility, independence, dignity - values that guided the pioneers of the welfare state but values that have been dropped along the way.

Yes, some argue that values are less important than the

Tony Blair is right to stand firm amount of money we spend. They believe more money equals a better welfare state. They are wrong. The Conservatives increased welfare spending. They also increased the number of people living in poverty. Labour will do better.

And we should not forget

the implications of the costs of welfare. Those who demand more spending appear to live in a world in which money does indeed grow on trees. The rest of us do not have that luxury. We spend £100bn a year on welfare -six times as much as we do on education. Welfare takes a third of all public spending. And as welfare bills rise, we watch our schools crumble, our public transport grind to a halt and our hospitals struggle to survive. The cost of welfare makes it impossible to prioritise spending across he range of government

Nor are people prepared to pay more for a system that does not work. Each working day. every ordinary working man and woman pays £14 to fund the

departments.

aspirations of the advocates of higher welfare spending. But they are often left out of the dehate. They should not be taken for granted. For most working people

know that the system is abused. albeit by a minority. And just as people in genuine need have the right to help, working people have the right to expect that the system they fund is in working order. They understand the need for reform. That is why so many returned to Labour, because Labour had stopped defending what clearly did not

Yes, reform means facing difficult decisions. But if Labour is serious about modernising welfare - and I believe it is - there can be no excuse for ducking them. And yes, change is unsettling. But change becomes hope if reform is explained, if people understand that it will bring a brighter future. It requires both courage and compassion. The two are

not mutually exclusive. But Britain is not alone in adapting welfare to present-day needs. Around the world, industrialised nations are coming to terms with profound economic and social change. Even Sweden, where at one time three-quarters of the population

Change will require courage and compassion. The two are not mutually exclusive

were net recipients of welfare, is embarking on reform. Sweden, like other nations, knows that it cannot let welfare spending spiral further out-of-control. Why? Because like Britain, nations across the world understand that high welfare spending can be an obstacle to long-term competitiveness. Some of our European partners know to their cost that high social costs lead in part to high unemployment. If Britain is to survive and prosper, both public spending and taxation must be kept in check. Global capital, international competition, multinational companies - all leave us with no option.

So let us have a debate about welfare. Let us discuss how best we can reform it to help people into work, to help those in genuine need, to encourage competitiveness and investment in Britain. But let's not waste time deciding whether reform is necessary. The people decided on 1 May that they wanted a modernising government. Labour made clear then that it would reform welfare. It is up to all of us to help it achieve its aims.

The writer is General Secretary of the Amaleamated Engineering and Electrical Union

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Toshiro Mifune

Toshiro Mifune, actor and film and television producer: born Qingdao, Manchuria ! April 1920; married 1950 Sachiko Yoshimine (decease two sons; marriage dissolved 1970), secondly Miki Kitagawa (one daughter); died Tokyo 24 December 1997.

It was the very great director Akiro Kurosawa who discovered Toshiro Mifune, the greatest of all Japanese movie actors, and starred him in a dozen or so absolute masterpieces. In all, Mifune made about 130 films, but it is mainly Kurosawa's that he is remembered by. Because of their international success, their star became known in Japan as Sakai no Mifune or World-wide Mifune".

He was born in 1920 in were stationed and where his father had a photographic studio. He was educated at Dairen him: at national sports like karate. archery and swordsmanship, skills that were to serve him well in his screen career. For a while, he took over his father's photography business, and because of his experience of photographic techniques he was assigned to a photography unit when war broke out and he

joined the air force. He hated it. At the end of the war he a friend who was working as a sent in his CV, but, as luck would by mistake to the casting de-

of whom 16 men were chosen. including Mifune. They were trained in acting before the cameras by an old director, Eizo Tanaka, for three months.

Mifune's first, unremarkable screen appearance was in 1946, in Shin baka jidai ("New Age Follies"). But he was noticed by Kurosawa, who had written the scenario for Mifune's second movie, the 1947 Gintei no hate ("Over the Silver Peak"), directed by Sankichi Taniguchi and also starring another Kurosawa discovery, Takashi Shimura, who was later to play the woodcutter in Rashomon. Kurosawa chose Mifune to appear in the lead of the 1948 Yoidore tenshi ("The Drunken Angel") and so created a new rebel movie star.

In his autobiography, Gama Manchuria, where his parents no abura ("Oil of Toad", 1982). Kurosawa describes the impact the "hooligan" Mifune made on

High School, where he excelled Mifune had the kind of talent I had never encountered before in the Japanese film world. It was, above all. the speed with which he expressed himself that was astounding. The or-dinary Japanese actor might need 10 feet of film to get across an impres-sion; Mifune needed only three feet. The speed of his movements was such that he said in a single action what took ordinary actors three separate with all his quickness be also had su prisingly fine sensibilities.

In 1949, Kurosawa starred went to Tokyo and stayed with him again in a controversial subject, Shizuka naru ketto ("Quicameraman at the Toho Movie et Duel"), about a doctor who Company and who encouraged has contracted syphilis while ophim to apply for a job there. He erating on an infected patient. and so refuses to marry. It is a have it, the document was sent truly absorbing film, and at the present time its relevance to the partment, which was just then Aids epidemic lends it a dismounting a search for "new turbing topicality. In the same faces" on the cinema screen. year, Kurosawa produced Nora

Four thousand people applied. Inu ("Stray Dog"), a detective broke Kurosawa's heart when Festival. It was made into a thriller that won the Geijutsusai Grand Prize, followed in 1950 by Skvandaru ("Scandal") about the pernicious effects of were to become known as the Japarazzi.

Nineteen fifty was the year of what is perhaps Kurosawa's greatest masterpiece. Rashomon. and one of Mifune's greatest performances. It was in several ways a revolutionary film, with a script presenting the story from four different points of view. The camerawork by Kazuo Miyagawa is breathtaking in its speed in following Mifune's athletic exploits, often shooting directly into the sun with dazzling flashes among bamboo thickets. Kurosawa's direction of Mi-

fune encouraged him to act "like a panther": he showed his star documentaries of panthers and leopards in action, and the grace and beauty and animal intensity of everything Mifune does, whether fighting or languorously reclining in total sensual abandon as the hilt of his sword slides up his thigh. The film was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festifor the Best Foreign Film in the same year.

The next Kurosawa/Mifune work was Hakuchi (1951), based on Dostoevsky's The Idiot, and is remarkable because it is set, not in St Petersburg, but in the snows of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. Mifune luminous Nastassia Philippovna - another great "new face" in the making.

the production company spaghetti western by Serge Shochiku unfeelingly cut it Leone in 1964 under the title A down to a commercial length. Fistful of Dollars. In 1962, Mi-It was only the news of fune started his own production scandal magazines and what Rashomon's European success company, after disagreements that kept him going on his next with Kurosawa, with whom he project with Mifune, the first of made his final film, Akahige the great samurai westerns, (Red Beard) in 1965, and was Seven Samurai, which did not see the light until 1954. Mean- was too long and static, and was while, Mifune triumphed in 1952 in Kenji Mizoguchi's masterpiece Saikaku ichidai onna his own production company was ("The Life of the Courtesan Ohara"), playing the tragic lowly samurai Katsunosuke, a victim of love. It won the Venice International Prize for Mi-

zoguchi, while Seven Samurai

it as The Magnificent Seven. Japanese cinema, with Mifune appearing in a series of Kurosawa samurai classics and more literspectator can only marvel at the ary, thought-provoking themes ("Record of a Living Being"), a deeply moving meditation on the threat of atomic warfare, in which Mifune convincingly played an old man beset by fears of nuclear annihiliation val in 1951, and won an Oscar family of the threat they live under. Mifune plays a medieval Japanese lord in the 1957 version of Macbeth called Kumonosujo, direct translation of the Japan-

ese, "Castle of Spiders". In the same year, we had Mifune as the thief in Gorky's Donplays Rogojin with expressive in- zoko ("Lower Depths"), again sight into the complex charac- set in feudal Japan, using a readily recognises and rememter, while Setsuko Hara is a single set with brilliant inventiveness. Nineteen sixty-one 20th anniversary of the death of brought Mifune fans Yojimbo another great legend, Charlie for which he won the Best Ac- Chaplin. It was one of those films that tor Award at the Venice Film

awarded the Grand Prix. But it not a success. Mifune's only film made for

Non-Foots

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not a success, so he built an open set on waste land in Setagaya Seiiyo and concentrated on television films, in many of which he acted. The samurai movies made with Kurosawa during the 1960s won the San Marco Silver Lion. were now most often associat-In 1969, John Sturges re-made ed with him, but he was also in great demand from foreign di-It was the golden age of the rectors, playing dignified but stereotyped Japanese in John Frankenheimer's Grand Prix (1966), John Boorman's Hell in the Pacific (1968) and Steven as in the 1955 Ikimono no kiroku Spielberg's 1941 (1980) among other less worthy movies, like Terence Young's Red Sun (with Alain Delon and Charles Bronson) in 1971.

He finally had the open set at Setagaya torn down and built who is unable to convince his a luxurious block of apartments in its place. He was ailing, and his first wife, whose divorce had been a particularly painful affair, returned to look after him whose English title, Throne of until she died of cancer a few Blood, is a poor substitute for a years ago. He still worked occasionally, though he was developing Alzheimer's disease.

Toshiro Mifune is still "World-wide Mifune", for he is the one Japanese that everyone bers. He died on the eve of the

– james Kirkub

Johnny Coles

Johnny Coles, trumpeter: born Trenton, New Jersey 3 July 1926; died Philadelphia 21 December 1997.

"Johnny moves by the mowith such sheer beauty that I Fifties when he played for the wonder where it's coming drummer Philly Jo Jones, the

Johnny Coles would perhaps have been regarded as one of the jazz greats had he not been so close to Miles Davis in his sound and style. Both Coles and Davis had the ability to express themselves powerfully using a minimal number of notes. The similarities clouded the fact that Coles's inventions were completely original and that he barely borrowed from Davis at all. He was basically a self-taught musician who developed his playing by working in a military band.

The diminutive trumpeter joined a sextet called Slappy and his Swingsters when he was 19, and in 1948 became a member of the band led by the bluessinging alto player Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. Although Vinson played the rhythm-andblues so popular at the time, he was in fact a sophisticated mod-

singer-saxophonist Bull Moose Jackson and, from 1956 to 1958. the tenor saxophonist James Moody.

of jazz fans with his remarkable solos with the Gil Evans orchestras between 1958 and to be the ultimate setting for his work. When I interviewed him in 1973 he told me:

The 1960 "Sunken Treasure", one of the most haunting performances in all jazz, best illustrates the inspired perfection of the partnership. Evans's composition provided an eerie seabed for Coles's fastidious and plaintive improvisation. "We

amidst a mixture of contempo- tracks brought out Coles's most orchestra in 1971. "I asked haven't yet had." said Coles. ment," said pianist Herbie rary jazz and rhythm-and-blues effective work on disc. Potent, Duke's son Mercer," Coles re- who was with Ellington from Hancock. "He plays things during the first half of the too was his reappraisal in 1959 membered, "and he said that 1970 to 1974.

He first came to the notice 1964. In retrospect this proved

Gil Evans's composition was easy to read, but it was the interpretation of it which made the music. I remember once asking Gil how he wanted me to play something and he said, Don't worry about it. You're going to play it right anyhow." He left me a bit mystified, you know.

also included future giants of me with pride. The album in "A man must eat," he reflected. in the band for a quarter of a music in the pianist Red Gar- which it is found, one of the land and the tenor saxophonist most magical jazz collections, an. But Duke Ellington took a Coles continued to work Impulse! label, and its six trumpeter when Coles joined his measure of prestige that I of Bix Beiderbecke's "Davenport Blues", where again his re- something to feature me." laxed choice of notes was

> When work with Evans became more sporadic in 1964 Coles joined the Charlie Mingus Workshop and appeared on some of the bassist's recordings, creating music of great fire with the remarkable saxophonist Eric Dolphy.

In 1968 he became a member of the sextet newly formed by Herbie Hancock. Hancock had earlier given up leadership of his own band to become, for five years, the pianist in one of Miles Davis's most influential

quintets. "Herbie Hancock's was the only group I played in that I got to work ahead of time. I'd warm up for at least a half-hour. ready to play. I had a ball with that band. I really couldn't tell you in words how gratifying

Hancock lionised the veter- century.

was called Out of the Cool on the more detached view of the while, because it'll give me a Duke was considering writing At the time of our conver-

inspired by Evans's imaginative sation in 1973 Coles had been with Duke Ellington's Orchestra for several years. It seemed odd to me then that Ellington was so remote from the musicians who worked for him that they had to deal with him formally through Mercer.

A few weeks ago the widow of the Ellington trumpeter Ray Nance seemed to confirm this distancing when she told me that her husband respected his leader so much that "Ray would never have questioned a decision of Duke's, musical or otherwise". (In contrast, I was once on a coach with the Count Basie Band when his trumpeter Thad Jones reached over the back of his seat and, to great merriment all round, swiped the Count over the head with a rolled-up newspaper. He has musicians in the band

em jazz musician, and his band did it all in one take," he told join Ray Charles's band in 1969. that to Duke.) Nance had been

"I'll stay with Duke for a

He gave the impression that. unusually amongst musicians, who normally deified Ellington, he considered working for him to be a routine job. "As far as Gil was concerned, Ellington was the biggest influence on his writing. I enjoy playing in both bands, but I had more freedom playing in Gil's band," he said.

Coles found Ellington's music too confining. "I like to play," he said. This was a rueful reference to the fact that his solo work with Duke was confined at each concert to a fluent two-minute improvisation on "How High the Moon" played on trumpet over a backing of sprightly Be-bop piano from Ellington. There was little or no orchestration involved.

"Some of Duke's writing is sparse. Sometimes he might just write 12 bars and leave it to the guys in the band to fill it up. it was." Coles left Hancock to Nobody could ever have done who have been with him for mer Art Blakey's quintet.



Coles: fastidious and plaintive improvisation

many years and they just about know what he wants without him having to tell them." Coles was lonely because Ellington's band was made up of cliques also been a member of "grave- and Miles Davis as the line of and he wasn't accepted into any yard" bands devoted to the

When Ellington died in 1974 Coles rejoined Ray Charles His health declined during the bard. "But I'm more of a melanand in 1976 worked with drum-

Settled in San Francisco, in 1985 he worked in the Count Basie "graveyard" band (Basie had died in 1984), having music of the composers Char-Nineties and he moved to choly player," he said.

Philadelphia.

Coles had shown enormous talent as a trumpet player. He mentioned Charlie Shavers, Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie players who had influenced him. He also acknowledged the lie Mingus and Tadd Dameron. fiery work of Freddie Hub-

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

FOSS: Brian Malzard, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of London, died peacefully in hospital on 23 December. Funeral at Morilake Crematorium on Thursday 8 January at 3pm. Family flowers only. A memorial gathering is being arranged, details to be announced.

Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services. Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Indepen-dent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 50L, telephoned to 871-271 201 C44 based on the control of the London EH 5DL, telephoned to 6f71-293 2012 (24-hour answering marchine 0f77-293 2011) or faxed to 0f71-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announce-ments (notices, functions, Forthcom-ing marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk. The Independent's main switchboard num-

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: Ist Bonalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11 Mam, hand pro-vided by the Grenadier Guards.

Birthdays

Mr David Bailey, photographer and film director, 60; Sir Richard Bayliss, nim director, but St. Kichard Daynes, former Physician to the Queen, 81; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 86; Mr Christo-pher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 62; Admiral William J. Crowe, former US ambassador, 73; The Duke of Devenshire, former Chancellor of Manchester University, 78; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, former director, Institute of Geological Sciences, 88; Mr David Graveney, cricketer, 44; Mr David Graveney, cricketer, 44; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 77; Mr Alger-non Heber-Percy, Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire, 54; Sir Bruce Partullo, governor, the Bank of Scotland, 60; Sir Charles Reece, former research and technology director, ICI, 71; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, director, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 82; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidey, 85; Pro-fessor John Thomas, chemist, 72; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 65; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 93; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 75; Mr Robert Wilmot, chairman, Wilmot Enterprises Ltd, 53; The Right Rev Kenneth Wooll-combe, Assistant Bishop, Worcester,

Anniversaries

Births: James Wolfe, general, 1727; Count Folke Bernadotte af Wisborg, soldier, humanitarian and diplomat, 1848; George Gilbert Aime Murray, classical scholar, 1866; Isaac Azimov, Russian-born biochemist and science-fiction writer, 1920. Deaths: Ovid (Publius Ovidius Naso). Roman poet, 17; Barthold Painted Glass 1350-1500", 2.30pm.

Georg Niebuhr, historian, 1831; Fabian Gottlieb Bellingshausen, po-lar explorer, 1852; Sir George Biddell Airy, astronomer royal, 1892; Sir Edward Augustus Bond, librarian of the British Museum, 1898; Sabine Baring-Gould, clergyman and author, 1924; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, 1946; Dick Emery, comedian, 1983. On this day: the Spanish army recaptured Granada from the Moors, 1492, the Académie Française was established by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635; Louis Daguerre took the first photograph of the Moon, 1839; Wagner's opera The Flving Dutchman was first produced, Dresden, 1843; Sir Robert Napier led a British expedition to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) to release the imprisoned British Consul, 1868; the first municipal crematorium was opened at Hull, 1901; King Zog of Albania, absent from his country, was deposed, 1946; control. was established by Cardinal Richecountry, was deposed, 1946; cupro-nickel coins were issued in the United Kingdom to replace silver, 1947; the first rocket to pass near the Moon - the unmanned Russian Luna I -was launched, 1959; 66 people died after a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971. To-day is the Feast Day of St Adalhard or Adelard, St Basil, St Caspar del Bufalo, St Gregory Nazianzen, St Macarius of Alexandria, St Munchin, St Seraphim of Sarov, St Vincentian and The Holy Name of Jesus.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Courtauld Loans (1): Parmigianino The Madonna and Child with Saints John the Baptist and Jerome", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum:

FAITH & REASON

Why the other lights of the world are not fakes

The Christ-child brings light to the darkness. But the same metaphor is crucial to Judaism and Islam. Adherents of the three faiths cannot afford to ignore each other, argues the Rev Keith Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford. Rather each light must reflect the brightness of those that surround it.

"Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

A common theme in the religious mythologies of the world is the cosmic battle between light and darkness, between beauty and chaos. The first creation story in the book of Genesis which is held to be holy by Judaism, Christianity and Islam alike - speaks of the formless sea of chaos, over which swept the breath of God, bringing ordered complexity, beauty and life into being in successive waves of creative power.

ifestation of light. This is the light of divine glory, or beauty, which exists before sun, stars or moon, and which will ning in chaos and the end in glory - is an interweaving of light and darkness. in which the material is being transfigured to become a vehicle for spirit.

The three great Abrahamic faiths tell different but related stories of the unfolding of this sacred cosmology. Isaiah, from whom the opening

quotation is taken, sees the people of Israel as called by God to be the vehicle of divine light in a world of oppression and cruelty. They are to be the priests of the earth, their land is to be a sanctuary of justice and peace, and they are to be the exemplars of the marriage of creator and creature.

Islam opens up the law of divine wisdom, the shari ah, to all people. One of the best loved verses of the Koran (xxiv, 35) says, "God is the Light . . . God doth guide whom He will to His light." By joyful submission to the law of God, darkness is dispelled by the presence But the first divine act was the man- of the Lord of light.

Word of God embodied in the person ic traditions respond to the light that of Jesus, who becomes himself the libremain in that new creation at the end erator from darkness and the light of true God. We ourselves obscure that of history in which there is no more sea. the world. His human personality be-Human life now - between the begin- comes, for his disciples, the transparent vehicle of the divine light. United inseparably with the glory of God, his risen life is the source of the light which his body, the church, is called to manifest to the world. The church is called to follow its Lord in serving the world in healing, forgiveness and

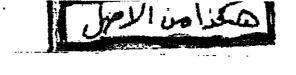
reconciliation. These three ways - the way of the people of the covenant, the community of the divine law, and the way of the "body of Christ"- are all ways of mediating light in darkness, of building beauty from chaos, of incarnating justice and loving-kindness in the world. If they strive with one another, they should do so in goodness. If they disagree, as they inevitably will, they

should do so in love and respect. A resolution for the faithful for this new year might be never to say, "My light is the only light, all others are only light, and He makes His light shine this new year, prepared for such a light?

The Christian way finds the creative where He wills". We in the Abrahamwe have seen, by the grace of the one light, by our greed, hatred and ignorance. We must learn to discern the light wherever it shines, to encourage and

It is even possible that the light we have will shine with its true brightness only when it reflects the lights that surround us. These lights of faith can lead us from the often wilful ignorance which breeds misunderstanding and intolerance towards knowledge of the one reality of supreme goodness, whose true and uncreated light they dimly reflect.

In the words of the Second Vatican Council's constitution of the church in the modern world, Gaudium et Spes, "Since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery." And, one must add, in the Mosaic covenant and the community of true Muslims, those who subfakes", but to say instead, "God is the mit their lives to God. Are our eyes, in



19/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Non-Footsie players are 1997's biggest winners - and losers

Although blue chips dominated the stock market last year the rest of the herd has at least retained one of its traditional achievements - complete control of the winners and losers table. Footsie may have jumped by more than a fifth but not a solitary constituent features in the top 10 shares or, indeed, the motley collection of biggest fallers.

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With their much smaller capital bases, the non-Footsie players invariably experience the biggest percentage price movements. So it is not surprising that two no-and-coming groups which started the year as tiddlers and ended with capitalisations of around £130m achieved star status.

Shield Diagnostic soared on exalted expectations that it had found a system for the as high as 805p. Robert Walters ended at early detection of heart disease. Robert Walters has scored by specialising in computer and financial recruitment. Sandwiched between In March it looked more a candidate for the them is Abacus Recruitment. It is still one of

Year's Eve, a runaway winner. It has been the price from 805p in a few weeks.

WINNERS					
Clos	Closing price				
Shield Diagnostic Abacus Recruit. Robert Walters Gresham House Drew Scientific Coffee Republic Polydoc Gaskell Proudfoot Jarvis	717.5p 330p 521.5p 23.75p 84p 25p 152.5p 420p 43p 397.5p	409 290 283 280 273 233 221 197 185 180			

its peak, 521.5p.

Shield has had an extremely volatile year. losers' table than the winners. Its shares were the third division players, capitalised at £21m. hit by sudden doubts about its AFT blood The health group closed at 717.5p on New test. But it survived the panic which halved

Later in the year Shield had to contend of the blue-sky medical shares, Drew its target of 20 New York style coffee bars seven of the worst performing shares are in with the surprising and unsettling departure of its managing director, Gordon Hall.

More positive information about AFT and thoughts that Shield will strengthen its links with Abbott Laboratories, the US group helped the shares shrug off their anxiety. a rather pedestrian existence. At the helm There is even a school of thought that Abbott could be tempted to mount a takeover bid. In 1995 the shares bumped along at 32p.

Third placed Robert Walters, floated in July last year at 105p, has enjoyed the double bonus of rapid expansion and operating in a growing and lucrative market. Profits in 1996 were £3.9m; something around £8m is likely for this year.

Runner-up Abacus has had a remarkable couple of years. It featured in last year's top 10. In 1996 it was possible to buy the shares at 16p. Its booming performance is due to rapid profits growth. It has already "warned" that its interim profits will exceed £800,000. matching the figure for the last full year.

Although it was a difficult year for many

Scientific also gets in the top 10, more on hope than achievement.

Coffee Republic is probably the most intriguing winner. As Arion Properties it had, despite a strong Slater family involvement, was Chris Slater, son of share tipster Jim. Bahamas-based mega-rich trader Joseph Lewis (Christie's International, Glasgow Rangers FC, etc) had 23.4 per cent.

Yet it was the arrival of Bobby Hashemi and his sister Sahar that enlivened the shares. Arion paid £3m in shares for their six London coffee bars. As news of the deal leaked out Arion was full of beans and when its shares were suspended ahead of the takeover announcement they had risen from 4.5p to 33.5p. They are now 25p.

It is an exceedingly rich price, capitalising the company at £14.2m. Not bad for a business, now consisting of seven coffee bars, which says it will not make money for two years and will need a rights issue to achieve

BG

Share price, pence

by December. The price values each of the coffee bars at more than 12m.

Property is well represented among the best performers, although only Gresham House makes it into the top 10. It had the dubious distinction of being the first investment trust to have negative net asset value and at one time seemed a certain candidate for the corporate graveyard. Slowly it has returned to health and is even back on the dividend list. Still, it is unlikely to recapture its glory days, in 1987, ahead of Black Monday, the shares were 650p.

Proudfoot, a management consultant, is also a survivor. It has suffered heavy losses but is now seen as recapturing some of its old sparkle. In 1993 its shares were 122.5p.

Jarvis, the construction group now deeply involved in the lucrative world of rail maintenance, is another to make the top 10 for two

consecutive years. In 1995 its shares were 4.75p. What about the losers? Although AIM supplied three of the top 10, no fewer than

Fund managers seek more solid gains

Share orice, pence

the junior market. Of course, by its very nature, AIM has a high risk element and its shares carry a wealth warning. Still, such a strong losers' representation is worrying. AIM has had its successes but its crop of poor performers should be sounding alarm bells in the Stock Exchange Tower.

The four top (or bottom) of the losers list are AIM constituents. BKG Resources, it could be argued, suffered most of its indignity as fully listed Bakyrchik Gold. After a series of mishaps the Russian gold explorer was relegated to the junior market. Its shares, now 10.5p, once nudged 600p.

Multimedia, a CD Rom group, has issued a series of profit warnings; shareholders in OmniMedia, another CD Rom casualty, seem advised to rest their hopes on some sort of reverse takeover. Crown Products, a giftware group, is attempting a refinancing. The fully listed casualties include retailer Storedale and pipe-layer AH Ball.

Share orice, pence

Value Management.Tip:

domestic businesses should do

well. British Energy, the nuclear

power generator, has already

been outperforming. This has

taken it to a market capitalisa-

tion of over £3bn, and into the

FTSE 100 index, but the shares

vestors still have relatively low exposure to the company

privatised in 1996, which is now

demonstrating much better than

tension of the remaining life of

its eight nuclear power stations,

which it must ultimately de-

commission, as well as from in-

creasing output and cost savings.

Bernard Clark, Hill Samuel

It is benefiting from the ex-

expected profitability.

Our three-year-old share picker leaves the professionals behind

daughter of our City Editor, to test her mettle against the higher. professionals by picking out 10 stocks at random with the

use of a dart. comprehensively outperform craze, rising in value by 129 that of her father, it also beat per cent from 157.5p to the share tips chosen by our 360.5p. Her other tips were panel of investment fund managers by a handsome ley (-18 per cent), Roxspur margin. The average percentage increase in the stocks chosen by Amber was a Income Trust (+10 per cent). thumping 41 per cent double the rise in the FT All Share Index.

The star performer for Amber was the building and construction group Jarvis, whose shares soared from 142.5p to 398p-a gain of 179 per cent. Only three shares fell in value and one of those Amber but she has picked an was also in the building sec- interesting selection which tor, Linden slipping by 20p or runs as follows: Elitronic at 6-per cent over the year.

unalloyed success, spiced up Signet (30p) Newcastle United by picking one takeover tar- (94.5p), Chez Gerard (282.5p), get (T&N) and a recovery Nycomed Amersham (2262p), stock, MDIS, which was a Zeneca (2137p), Carpetright basket-case at the start of the (445p) and Fitzwilton (40p). Ellen Harrison: Chose this year's selection with a pin

A year ago we invited Amber year following a string of Stevenson, the three-year old profit warnings but which ended the year 42 per cent

Her other big hitter was the business support services group Lavendon, which Not only did her selection cashed in on the outsourcing Tesco (+40 per cent), Critch-(unchanged), Aukett (-21 per cent) and Gartmore British

This year Amber has passed the baton, or rather the pin, to Ellen Harrison. aged four and a half, the daughter of The Independent's Deputy Business and City Editor. Ellen clearly has a job on

her hands if she is to outdo per cent over the year. 442.5p, Bodyeste (903.5p), Elsewhere, it was a story of Peptide Therapeutics (266.5p).



'Independent' team's hopes for 1998

in 1997. After respectably outperforming the market in 1996, The Independent's share selections for this past year have, with one or two exceptions, been lackfustre. We failed to capitalise on the surge in banking and pharmaceutical stocks.

For 1998 we have come up with a spread of stocks we hope will perform rather better. The biggest winner in 1998 is likely to be a bid victim, probably in the financial sector. But picking bid targets is an inexact science so the list is slanted towards stocks with either good growth or recovery prospects.

Leisure stocks feature prominently, beginning with Irocadero. After a breathtaking rise the shares have crashed from a high 79.5p to stand at 17.5p. The problem has been not the flagship West End complex but Segaworld, the hi-tech games park which proved an embarrassing flop for the old management team.

Replacements John Conlan and Nick Tamblyn are poised to resurrect the group's fortunes. The pair built up First Leisure from scratch and now have more than £100m at their disposal to start all over again. The group's rights to all of Enid Blyton's books and characters could also turn out to be a little goldmine.

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Greenalls, the pub company, is another potential recovery stock. The company everpaid for Boddingtons two years ago and its shares have fallen sharply since last year's high of over 600p. Now at 439p they are off their low but should climb higher. Management is increasing capital expenditure with 20 new pubs and 600 new bedrooms in its De Vere hotels division. It is rolling out more pub formats such as its Miller's Kitchen brand, while underperforming boozers are being pushed into the tenanted estate. If current

could break the group up.

Our final choice in this sector is Northern Leisure, the fast-growing operator of licensed dance halls. The shares have doubled in value over the last 12 months and now sell at 30 times historic earnings. But earnings per share are expected to grow from 12.8p this year to 20p next year and 30p in 1999. If so the shares should top £5 in 1998.

Another area which looks promising is the UK's nursing home sector, shaping up for a better 1998. Local authorities have bigger budgets to pay for long-term care and consolidation has removed some of the more disreputable operators.

Tamaris is one of the smartest left. Though capitalised at just £18m, it has grown profitably from 234 beds in 1994 to almost 5,000 now. It leases rather than owns its homes, allowing it to expand with minimal capital and with no direct exposure to the volatile property market Tamaris' management has achieved returns of more than 25 per cent and average occupancy of almost 90 per cent. Tamaris is on 1998/9 p/e of just 7.5 times.

with the shares at 2.25p. Another growth area in 1998 will be outsourcing - taking on tasks like IT contracted out by

It was not only PDFM's Tony management cannot deliver a large companies and govern- with analogue. None the less Sky Dye who read the runes badly re-rating, a potential predator ment departments. Here our choice is WS Atkins. At 363.5p its shares trade at 18 times forecast earnings - modest compared to the sky-high ratings enjoyed by more established outsourcing groups. That gap should narrow this year as the group brings in new contracts. Its engineering consultancy division is pursuing

> spend on acquisitions. This year we have largely steered clear of industrial stocks with heavy exposure to sterling. But one stock that ought to be on the way up is BTR. It had a dreadful time of it in 1997 with repeated profit warnings and was the worst performing FTSE 100 stock. The strategy of selling off superfluous assets and concentrating on its core engineering capabilities is undoubtedly the right one, however, and its long

overseas business, while Atkins

also has a £43m cash pile to

term prospects are excellent. Another index stock to tuck away for the new year is BSkyB. Its shares didn't do much better than BTR's last year. Sky faces a couple of years of flat or falling profits as it invests in its digital future. Growing competition and regulatory pressure mean it cannot hope to enjoy the same monopoly of subscription TV in the digital age that it had

CITY WR	<u>ITERS</u>		
Sears Storehouse Allders Pearson Hextech Pace Micro Caspian Ascot Holdings British Taopayers A	95p 258p 173p 749.5p 677.5p 230.5p 46p 285p 385n. 28p	52.5p 237.5p 236.5p 236.5p 791p 527p 46p 23.5p 250p 13.5p	Gain/Loss -48% -8% +37% +5.5p -22% -80% -49% -12% -52%
Average perform FT All Share FTSE100	2013.66 4118.5	2411.00 5135.5	+20% +25%

remains supremely well placed to exploit the opportunities of pay-per-view and interactive

With independence for the UK's regions high on the political agenda, our "devolution stock" for 1998 is the Scottishbased Morrison Construction. The shares are up from 235p this time last year to 325.5p. The company has built everything from multiplex cinemas and supermarkets to hospitals and roads under the private finance initiative. It has thrived while most construction companies have struggled, and now has a market capitalisation of £220m. The shares are at a premium to the rest of the construction sector but cheap against the market.

In investment banking we have gone for Close Brothers that rarest of endangered species, an independent British merchant bank. There is a bit of a bid play, but the main reason for tipping Close is its good run of earnings growth, driven by the Winterflood stockbroking arm and the ex-Hill Samuel corporate finance team. The shares have already climbed from 320.5p at the beginning of 1997 to 530.5p now. after hitting 549.5p in December. With a prospective p/e of 15 they hardly look overvalued.

And finally, to one of the alltime investment flops. Floated a decade ago at 350p. Eurotunnel shares have been underwater for as long as anyone can remember. They started 1997 at 77p and ended the year at 60.5p. But the debt refinancing is approved, the operating concession has been extended and the merger of the two ferry operators should mean fewer price wars and better revenues this year. Sooner or later the tunnel will turn into a licence to print money and although the first dividend is still on the distant horizon, 1998 may just be the year when Eurotunnel rediscovers itself.

In a volatile year most of the fund John Hatherly, M&G Invest-

Centrica

Share price, pence

managers who tipped shares for us managed to show solid gains. The average increase was exactly in line with the FT All Share Index at 20 per cent.

Julian Fosh of Scottish Amicable was the clear winner with British Gas. The shares were boosted by the split into two as British Gas became BG and Centrica, and a record £1.3bn huy-back, ending the year 62 per cent higher. A bottle of champagne to our victor.

A worthy performance also from AEA Technology, tipped by Bernard Clark of Hill Samuel Asset Management. The former division of the Atomic Energy inversification. British Acrospace. the choice of Vanessa James at Legal & General, had a good year, borne aloft by its strong order book and improving fortunes at Airbus. Sainsbury's fulfilled the promise of Tom Crombie at Scottish Equitable.

At the other end of the scale. the sickly performance of the biotech sector knocked a hole in Skyepharma, Justin Seager's tip at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. This year's recommendations

the share price should bounce. come from most of the same fund managers as last year plus a welcome debut by M&G.

Tom Crombie, Scottish Equitable. Tip: Wolseley 483p

It is tempting to choose a financial stock for the best performance in '98 because there will undoubtedly be more rationalisation within the sector. However, picking a single stock in the hope of takeover is a mug's game. My stock is therefore Wolseley, is a well-managed distribution business with big shares in the plumbing and heating materials markets. They have produced good returns over the years. I like the mix of business with exposure in the US and Europe and they should be unaffected by events in the Far East. With building material stocks currently out of favour. Wolseley, at 483p, is relatively cheap.

ment Management. Tip: First Choice Holidays 100p

First Choice, the UK's third mend and well placed to benefit from the buoyant demand for holidays and changes in the structure of the industry. The present management team has brought stability to the group, enabling it to exploit its strong market position.

Profits for the year to October 1998 are forecast to increase by roughly 50 per cent to around £30m, implying a p/e ratio of just 13 times. Operating margins of 1.7 per cent are moving swiftly to-Authority reaped the benefits of sector. The changes in the industry

Mike Grimble, Norwich Union IM. Tip: British Airways 560p

British Airways offers good prospects for a rebound, having underperformed by around 23 per cent in 1997. Industrial relations problems have plagued the stock in the last 12 months and merger talks with American Airlines have also unsettled confidence. If the merger goes ahead

The move into budget airlines is unlikely to be seen as influencing profits enough to affect the share price this year. The shares have reacted to all negative news so far and look set to fiv in '98.

How they performed in 1997

British Gas

Cairn Energy

Skyepharma

FT All Share

AEA Technology

British Aerospace

Barclays Unicom Prop

Average performance

fund managers

Vanessa Williams, Legal and should produce earnings growth General. Tip: Unilever 521p in line with (still to be further Unilever has built dominant downgraded) general market market shares in products as diexpectations. Finally, EMI could largest tour operator, is on the verse as margarine (Flora), de- well be party to the closer intetergents (Persil) and ice cream gration of entertainment media. (Magnum). Under the leadership of Niall FitzGerald it has Colin McLean, Scottish started to focus more clearly on creating shareholder value. British Energy, 423p Unilever has been shedding non-While events in the Far East have increased risk internationally, core business and making bolt-

AEA Technology | Brit. Aerospace | J. Sainsbury

Share orice, pence

Brazilian ice cream maker. With an exceptionally strong balance sheet we expect this process to continue. Although the shares have performed well in 1997, anticipating the benefits wards the 4 per cent norm for the of the new strategy, we expect furare still cheap. Institutional inther performance in 1998.

on acquisitions such as a

Robert Talbut, Royal Sun Alliance. Tip: EMI 508p Since the euphoric highs reached

at the time of the demerger, EMI has significantly underperformed. This has been related not only to the lack of a bid but also to some reappraisal over trading conditions. The turmoil in Asia has precipitated further weakness.

However, trading on only a small premium to the market but

Price now

5135.5

with an above-market yield, the shares now offer real long-term value. The company has had to enact some far reaching restructuring of the US business, where industry trends tentatively indicate some improvement. Elsewhere, general trading

Gain/Loss

+31%

+19%

+3.3%

+2.5%

+20%

+20%

AM. Tip: Ockham Holdings 104.5p The restructuring of the Lloyd's

insurance market is creating opnortunities in the new Lloyd's vehicles and the quoted managing agents. Ockham Holdings comes into the latter category. It is now left with the management of the specialist motor insurance syndicate, Highway, and the private client stockbroker, Wise Speke.

The company recently completed the acquisition of 46 per cent of the underwriting capacity provided by Highway (£100m) and indicated its intention to further build up its directly-owned capacity. It has a good cash position which should be augmented if it sells Wise Speke. At the current price of just over 100p, capitalised at £50m, there is scope for a 50 per cent rise without a sale of Wise Speke, or more with a sale.

* Fund managers may hold some of the above stocks and deal in them.

CLASSIFIED

224.5p

388p

382p

257.6p

4118.5

*aggregate of BG and Centrica prices following demerger in February

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Creditors whose claims are wholly secured. IN LICKTOATION PRINCIPAL TRADENG ADDRESS ESSEX. CO15 4XA Notice is hereby given that lan France, Licensed Intolvency Practitioner of Lan Frances Associates, Conduir House, 23 Conduir Place, London VV2 1EP was appointed Liquidate of the Company on 17 December 1992.

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20/RACING



Leading by example: Warren Marston goes over the final fence in the long-distance chase at Cheltenham yesterday without his mount, Danger Baby, who refused. The race was won by Kendai Cavalier

Photograph: David Ashdown

Demise of Coral signifies fewer choices for the punter

The New Year has begun badly for punters with the announcement that Ladbroke has bought one of its main rivals Coral. As John Cobb reports, the main effect is a reduction in choice for the consumer.

Ladbroke's swift and stunning acquisition of Coral for £375.5m vesterday surprised many within the racing industy, but it was the firm's claim that this was good news for punters that re-

The deal with Bass, owners of Coral, wipes out at a stroke £41m as part of the deal. the third biggest bookmaking

Ladbroke's estate to 2,600 shops customer choice will be preout of a UK total of 8,500. William Hill, its only serious rival now, has 1,530 shops with the mission would be unnecessary. Tote up to 340 after acquiring 128 shops from Ladbrokes for

chain in Britain and tightens particularly important for Lad- losses would be kept to a min-

Ladbroke's grip on the industry. broke as a means of persuading The 833 Coral shops brings the Office of Fair Trading that served and that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-

Ladbroke's managing director, Chris Bell, audaciously claimed that the buy-out will The sell-off to the Tote is benefit punters and that job

forward to improved standards of service and facilities in all shops," he said. "I would be the first to admit that there is a downside in that there will be less choice for early prices. But there are still plenty of options

when all the independent bookmakers are taken into account." The British Betting Offices'

imum: "Punters can now look Association, which represents the independent bookmakers, holds a rather different view: eight in Jersey and the Romford "Fewer brand shops make less competition," its spokesman, Will Roseff, said. "It's bad news for our customers - it's bad news for punters generally. They are going to have fewer offers from their bookmakers and less

The deal also includes 50 betting shops in Ireland and and Hove greyhound tracks. "Obviously, this all needs of-

ficial approval," Bell added. "We are hopeful that there won't be a problem."

The problem is more likely to be one for punters. Already in recent weeks they have been

hit by the announcement that they will no longer benefit from two trade papers, the Racing Post having been taken over by the owners of The Sporting Life. And when they have cause for complaint there is no organization to back them, the National Association for the Protection of Punters having ceased operations on New Year's Eve.

NEWBURY

2.50 IVORY COASTER (nap) .20 Mountain Path 1.50 Be Brave 3.20 Brecon 2.20 Random Assault (nb) 3.50 Polar Prospect

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places on hurdles course).

Left-hand course with stiff fences.

Course is SE of town near A34. Reflway station (earvice from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members E14; Tattersalls £6; Silver Ring £4 (QAPs half price) Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free; Picnic area £4 per car plus £7 per person or £5 per car plus £5 per person.

LEADING TRANEFS: D Nicholson — 21 winners from 38 runners gives a success ratio of £14%; O Sherwood 18 from 59 (30.5%); N Henderson 14 from 88 (15.9%); M Pipe

13 from 71 (183%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody 19 wins from 96 rides gives a success ratio of 198%; M A Ritzgerald 12 from 111 (108%); C Llewellyn 10 from 98 (102%); A P McCoy 8 ● FAVOURITES: 147 wins in 361 races (40.7%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.20 ELCOT PARK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m Penaity Value 23,469

1997: meeting abandoned due to fixed.

FORM GUIDE

ESCARTEFIGUE, a former smart long-distance hundler, had a couple of outings over fences in France as a three-year-old and scored easily when 3-1 on for his British chasing debut at Worcester on 1 December. David Nicholson's six-year-old was again odds-on at Cheltenham (2m 5); I delay later but a mistake two tences out did not help and he was besten a length and three-quarters by all-the-way winner Northern Starfight. Today's longer trip and the soft ground is just what Escarteringue requires and he should see off this six revisits Escarteringue requires and he should see off this six revisits without too much fuss. Pick of them: might be Relatazons Bestu, who has had his problems – he ran only the once last term – but won over timber at Ascot in 1995 and went in on his fenang bow at Towcester (2m 6f) four weeks ago, jumping soundly. Mountain Peth landed a novices' hundle over an extended three miles at faunton in February and was besten two and a half lengths by Burmt Imp on his first elempt over the bigger obstacles – at Bangot. He made such a bad bunder at the ninth that Mick Fitzgerald did well to keep the partnership intact and boks certain to take a similar contest in due course. Red Lighter is another who appears certain to be winning before long after this fencing bow when second behind hold four Panks in a hand-loap at Newton Abbot (2m 5f).

7.50 RAMSBURY HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 5YO 2m 5f Penalty Value £5,069

2.20 NEW YEAR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,822

- 6 declared - Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weights Just Bruce 9er 13tb, Nearwille Star 9er 2b.
BETTING: 9-4 Random Assault, 11-4 Monmate Forts, 4-1 Wee River, 6-1 Just Bruce, 7-1 Northern Saddler, 10-1 Neshville Star

FORM GUIDE

RANDOM ASSAULT, who won over fences in his native New Zealand, gained his first success since joining David Nicholson's team when beating Barnageera Boy by five lengths at Uttowner a forting thing. Barnageera Boy had beeten Flying Instructor, the texounte six lengths at Haydock on his preceding run, so the form is useful, and Random Assault can follow up of it a 6th higher mark with good 7th-claimer Oliver McPhail again aboard. Monnale Forte had the unusual record in 1988-97 of three talls in a row followed by a hat-rick and he had also scored twice earlier last term, though he was pulled up on his final outing. He stayed on strongly to defeat Political Pop five lengths at Ayr on his return and ran Green Green Desert to a neck at Doncaster, so can be expected to make a close race of it.

2.50 ABINGDON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,775

Royale Angela has been in cracking form, winning at Worcester from dual subsequent scorer Ainal Soit II and at Plumpton but he has shot up 18lb since his Newton Abbot second to Dearno's Beano in November on his first outing after missing last term. BOLD CLASSIC, who won an arresteurs' event at Carlisie in November on his first outing since March, can supplement the gains off an 8lb higher mark. Olympian is getting on in years but retains his form well and was well clear of the others when beaten two and a half lengths. by Smith Too at Haydock seven weeks ago off the same weight - 11st 10th - and mark as today. Royal Piper, Bec Dlympian an 11-year-old. Is another to consider, having nished 18 lengths clear of the hind when a good second to market leader Three Farthings at Kempton on Saturday.

3-20 WEYHILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,760

FORM GUIDE

BRECON is still a marden on the Flat and was only eighth of 11 on the Lingfield Equitors that the residual of the did beat the odds-on Doctoor half a length at Fontwell a week before that and looks good enough for one of the weakest handicap hurdles on this course for a long time. Dictum and Chammer's Well were both beaten a distance lest time when third behind. Handson at Eleter in November and Vitaman at Warwick last month, respectively, while topweight Deymler was way behind in Throwera Haydock race times weeks ago. What's Your Story landed a bumper in 1994 and a noves hurdle at Haydock two seasons ago. Switzhed to chesing lest term, he fell on his first two outings – he would probably have obliged at Hereford on his debut except for departing two out – and finished well beaten on his return to hurdling at Ayr in April. And he has not been out since.

3.50 WANTAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £3,144 ANDSUEPHI (6) (D) (Mrs J A Cohen) C Brooks 6 11 12 ... G Bradley POLAR PROSPECT (13) (D) (Mr & Mrs D LastW Yeles) P Hobbs 5 11 6 ... G Torrey ALMOND ROCK (F104) (C IT Resing) J Franthers B 10 ... R Thombson C CALON LAN (398) (Howard Brown) N Hendemon 7 11 0 ... J R Kewunsigh

- 15 deciard BETTING: 3-1 Andauephi, 7-2 Poler Prospect, 6-1 Almond Rock, 7-1 Worlitzer, 8-1 Lakefield Leader,
16-1 Calon Lam, 12-1 Safty Girt, 14-1 others
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

ANDSUEPHI, unbesten in four attempts, two bumpers and two over hurdles, can carry on the good work. Charle Brooks's charge trotted up on his jumping bow at Stratford and was eased before the finish when deleating Urgent Swift more than three lengths at Leicester on Saturday. Poler Prospect, twice a Flat winner, went in first time up over timber at Uttowster two weeks ago and looks the One most likely to follow the favourite home

Selection: ANDSUEPH

SOUTHWELL (AW)

12.00 Time Of Night 12.30 Joseph's Wine 1.00 Muara Bay 1.30 Pine Ridge Lad 2.00 I'm Tef 2.30 Just Another Time 3.00 Rex Mundi 3.30

Sidney The Kidney Fibresand surface: left-hand sharp, oval course.
 Racecourse is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark. Rolleston

Rececurse is 3m St of fown and 5m W of Newark. Holeston function actions course. ADMISSION: CALD £12: Tattersalls £5 (OAP members of course's Diamond Calb £1 accompanied under 16s free). CAR PARK: Free.
 LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 54-256 (211%). S Bowring 46-383 (22-b), D Chapman 46-47 (103%). J Berry 36-259 (135%).
 LEADING JOCKEYS: J Quinn 46-579 (7.9%), Dean McKeown 39-366 (107%), L Charnock 33-376 (185%). D Holland 34-125 (192%).
 FAWILIDITES: 47-1379 (248%).

● FAVOURITES: 477-1379 (346%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lady Komaite (1230), Racing Telegraph (130) (viscored), Sealed By Fate (2/0), Angle Milnor (2/0) Velivet Sto-ry (2/0) (viscored), Private Audience (330), Ronquista D'Or (330)

12.00 LINCOLNSHIRE AMATEURS HAND-ICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,500 1m

00440 - JBEREEN (27) (CD) P Howing 5 11 7 Miles I Foustok (S) 7 00000 - KINGCHIP BOY (15) (CD) M Ryan 9 11 5 - Mr S Lavellin (S) 1 V 30300 - MUTAHADETH (116) (CD) D Shaw 4 to 12Mr C Bonner 4 B 6500- ZORBA (25) J Hetherton 4 10 6 Mil 53354- SHONTAINE (23) (C) (D) M Johnston 5 10 2 40056: A.DAR (J22) (C) (BF) Mrs S Lamyman 7 9 2

04004 TIME OF NIGHT (15) JL Eyrs 5 9 10 Miss blans J Jones 5
44500- DREAM CARRIER (25) (C) (D) R Psecock 19 8
5440- RING THE CHIEF (39) (C) M Usher 6 9 3Mrs A Usher (5) 2
00050; EAST BARRIS (438) (CD) S Golings 19 9 3...

10 declared —
mun weight: 941 3/b. True hard-are undertain.

um weight: 9st 3th. True handicap weights: Rung The Chief 8st 12th. East Barns 8st 8tb. BETTING: 4-1 Shontaine, 5-1 Jibersen, Time Of Night, 6-1 Kingchip Boy, Zorba, Ring The Chief, 7-1 Dreem Carrier, 8-1 others

12.30 LEICESTERSHIRE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,000 added 1m /0000- SASEEDO (90) P Howing 8 9 7. 04562 - YEOMAN OLIVER (15) (CD) B McManon 5 9 3 Octon JOSEPH'S WINE (15) (CD) J Whenton 99 0 D Holland 3 B 40530 NOBEY BARNES (85) (CD) Errico Inosa 98 12

1.00 LINCOLNSHIRE AMATEUR RS HAND-ICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,500 1m

- 9 declared - Mr H Ephgrave 1 V - 9 declared Minimum weight: Sst 3lb. True hardicap weight. Royal Acciem Sst 11lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Musra Bay, 5-1 Tathfid, Paint R Black, Don't Drop Bombs,
8-1 Benjamins Law, Shalsal, 12-1 Proud Monk, Venice Beach, 20-1 Royal Acciem

choice as to where to bet." LEICESTERSHIRE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) 53,000 added 1m

Deep MicKoone 3

RAMED WINLIZER (15) (CD) D Nicho's 693 Alex Greene 3

PRIE REGE LAD (15) (CD BF) JL Eye 88 St. O Pears 4 V

SUPERAPPAROS (SS) S Bowring 48 10 ... C Teague (5) S

GENUBRE JOHN (7) (C) J Parles 5 8 9 ... M Robust 1

MEDIAND (15) (D) B Micketh 8 83 ... D O'Shee 7

MINT CONDITION (25) Entro Incse 4 83 ... Micr Tinder 2

PRAISE BE (FF) (15) D O'Repres 98 83 ... Micr Tinder 8

RACNIG TELEGRAPH (J70) C Alen 8 8 3 ... J Quirn 5 V

DANGEROUS WATERS (782) J Neville 5 80 ... J Lover 8

- 10 decianed -BETTING: 2-1 Pieur For Profit, 11-4 Pine Ridge Lad, 3-1 Rassbo Weltze 6-1 Superappyros, 14-1 Mediand, Racing Relegraph, 16-1 others 2.00 RUTLAND HANDICAP (CLASS F)

£3,000 added 3YO 7f

2.30 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HANDICAP

(CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 6f

3.00 YORKSHIRE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m

00005- IMPERIAL LINE (42) A Mulholland 4 8 12....

3.30 DERBYSHIRE MAIDEN HANDICAP

OHSE-PRIVATE AUDIENCE (21) W Mur \$ 10 0. M Richards 2 B 002 MAPETUS (205) J Herberton 4 9 TO ... M Richards 2 B 002 MAPETUS (205) J Herberton 4 9 TO ... M Richards 2 B 0040-RUTHLA (27) S Melor 4 9 TO ... M Wighten 15 0040-RUTHLA (27) S Melor 4 9 TO ... M Wighten 15 500-BRYNKIR (88) D Murray Smith 4 8 TO ... Dane O'Nell 12 500-BRYNKIR (88) D Murray Smith 4 8 TO ... Denne O'Nell 12 500-BRYNKIR (88) D Murray Smith 4 8 TO ... Denne O'Nell 12 500-BRYNKIR (88) D Murray Smith 4 8 TO ... D Records 10 B 00502- GROVEFAIR LAD (27) S Bourray 4 8 9 ... C Regula (3) 8 05002 UNIDERSTUDY (39) R Holinshed 4 8 6 ... F Lynch 5 04000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 4 8 5 ... J Fronting 5 00200- UNIDERSTUDY (39) R Holinshed 4 8 6 ... F Lynch 5 04000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 4 8 5 ... J Fronting 6 00200- MIDDAY COWROY (153) G Woodward 5 8 1 ... Martin Droyer 1 0000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 4 8 5 ... F Lynch 5 04000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 5 040000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 5 040000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 5 040000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 6 04000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 6 040000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 6 10000- SHEEPN (15) J Parless 6 100000 (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 4f

~ 15 declared Mmmum: 7st 105: True weights: Apiculate, Our Drowny Maggle 7st 8th,
BETTING: 7-2 Stdney The Kidney, 4-1 Impetus, 6-1 Grovelsir Lad, 8-1
Private Audience, Piotilia, Ronquiste d'Or, Understudy, 18-1 others

3.10 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 3m 1f

3.40 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

G McCormick (5)

-1 declared
Minutum weight: Msc. Time harcoop weight Meadurieck 8st 8tb.

BETTING: 5-2 Parish, 3-1 Common Scientif, 7-2 Vintage Talkinger, 4-1 Reliegio, 5-1 Steepy rilver, 33-1 Mandovisek

(CLASS E.) £4,000 300060 311 17

9-38 THE SHY MADRE (90) (Semble 9 2.0 9

2440 KING OF THE BURFIEM (23) Mas S Smith 8 10 13

34:23 BELLS HILL LAD (7) J Benday 10 10

PD-F23 MANICA (23) M0 0058 8 10 1

FUFGU. COTTSTOWN BOY (4) (JEF) Mas S Beadburne 7 10 5. Mr M Bro (34-0 SURINY LETTH (98) P Montath 7 10 5. Mr M Bro (34-0 SURINY LETTH (98) P Montath 7 10 5.

1PP25 KOLAW (45) Mas M Revelsy 10 10 0

-22294 MUSIC BURZ (7) Mas D Thomson 7 10 0

- 8 declared Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weight Music Blitz 8st 12th.
BETTING: 7-2 Cottstown Boy, 4-1 King Of The Burren, 5-1 Belle Hill Led.,
lare, 5-1 Music Blitz, 10-1 Sunsy Leith, 12-1 The Stry Padro

Owner moves Hanakham from Hodges

Hanakham, one of the most promising steeplechasers in the country, has been removed by his owner from the small Somerset stable of Ron Hodges to the total surprise of his trainer.

The nine-year-old, winner of the Royal Sun Alliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival in March, was sidelined for the season because of a tendon problem. but the decision by his owner, Malcolm Brereton, to take the horse away has astonished Hodges. "I cannot believe it as we've never had a difference of opinion or a cross word,"

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Random Assault (Newbury 2.20) NB: Royal Piper (Newbury 2.50)

Hodges said, "so what the hell's happened I just don't know.

"I'm absolutely gutted to lose the horse as be's one of the best we've ever trained and would have a chance of winning the Gold Cup when he's recovered from the leg trouble."

Hanakham's rider at Cheltenham, Richard Dunwoody. has been approached by Ted Walsh to ride his Commanche Court in the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown on 10 January. The mount is available as Norman Williamson has been given a three-day riding ban, which rules him out of the race.

Walsh has targeted Dunwoody and Tony McCoy to ride the Triumph Hurdle winner, who is 5-1 favourite for the Ladbroke with the sponsors after a Leopardstown win on Sunday.

"Richard will let me know in the next couple of days, but I don't want to hold a gun to anyone's head," Walsh said. "I haven't contacted Tony McCoy as I presumed he would be committed. It's a spare ride for either Richard or Tony if they come along. I'm sure both would like to ride the winner of the Ladbroke.

Racing results, page 21

THE INDE	PENI	DENT
RACING:	SERV 26	ICES 1 +
	TARJES	
NEWBURY AYR	971 972	981 982
SOUTHWELL	973	983
ALL COURS 0891 2	<u>61 9</u>	<u>70_</u>
Catt Cost Silp per minute, I'	LS. plc, Scrattic	N S (8.2% 41

AYR

HYPERION 12.40 San Francisco 1.10 Jymjam Johnny 1.40 Sweep Gently 2.10 Mr Knitwit 2.40 Cash Box 3.10 King Of The Burren 3.40 Railegio

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places). © Left-hand galloping course; run-in 210yda.

© Recoccurse is E of lown on A788 Ayr station (service from Glasgow) 7m.
ADMISSION: CLU 572: Grandstand £7 (DAPs half-price). CAR PARK: Free.

— LEADING TRAINERS G Richards 33-153 (202%), lift in Microsophy 38-141 (199%).

J J O'Nelli 20-112 (179%), C Partiert 17-171 (153%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 34-165 (205%), B Storey 27-166 (163%), P
Niven 22-172 (173%), T Read 13-121 (107%).

© FAVOURITES: 170-388 (43.8%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Derannie (110).

12.40 DROUTHY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m

BETTUNG: 4-5 Robbo, 2-1 San Francisco, 9-2 Jukebox Sive, 10-1 Stakis Casinos Boy

1.10 GLENGOYNE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 5f 110yds | CLASS E| \$4,000 27ff 57 110ydS | 2032 | MMAM JORRIN (16) J O'Nell 8 1 8 | P Niven 2 4-237 | PACHAEL 3 O'NEN (16) J O'Nell 8 1 6 | R MeGrath (3) 3 18-18 SOLSGRITH (7) (C) (SP) J Benday 7 11 6 | L Wyer 4 4430 | ARCTIC SANDY (270) J O'Ner 8 In 0 | B Storty 5 444.3 CUTHEL HOPE (25) Mrs S Shift 7 ft 0 | R Guest 6 30-65 DERANNIE (25) (C) G Richards 6 II 0 | A Dobbits 8 7 0340- KINGS LANE (25) J Dur 9 10 10 | D Parker 8 4-6820 | RAMING STAIRS (27) G Richards 7 10 10 | B Harding BETTING: 2-1 Jyrajem Johnny, 9-2 Rachael's Owen, Solegirth, 6-1 Cuthell Hope, 7-1 Reining Stairs, 10-1 Derannie, Korgs Lene, 12-1 Arctic Sandy 1.40 HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY LESLEY 'NH' NOVICE

HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m

2.10 WESTERN HOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f FPS-1R COOUR LANE (32) (CD) J Dun 11 105 D Parter - 6 decizred -BETTING: 11-4 Beachy Head, 3-1 Brighter Shade, 7-2 Regal Romper, 5-1 Mr Knibet,

2.40 AYR NEW YEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) \$5,500 added 3m 110yds

4-1U23 LINLATHEN (17) (D) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 10 _______ P Novea 101/1- SEDVICTA (395) (D) Mrs M Reveley 6 Ti 4....... Mr T Corported (7) B-1633 DRODY RYMER (15) (D) (EF) Mrs S Smith 8 10 0G F Ryen (5) ~ 4 declared -

Minimum weight, 10st, True handicap weight: Diddy Rymer 9st 11/b BETTING: 6-4 Sedvicts, 5-2 Linksthen, 7-2 Diddy Rymer, 4-1 Cash Box

mold book nbitions

**** * ******

21/SPOR

ball to eyeball sailing as the fleet puts on its sprinting shoes to New Zealand



Five days of non-stop action lie ahead for the skipper of Merit Cup n the Whitbread Round the World Race restarts on Sunday

Five days with everyone sitting leisurely cruise home. In front navigators draw a straight line one will be on deck for the before seen in the Whitbread.

There is a lot of truth in what they say, but five days on changes. the deck rail? Forget it. You cannot live on deck for five days. We expect to get Merit Sydney Heads at the entrance to the harbour on Sunday, and that is how we want it to stay for the following four days.

Not that were expecting a

on the side to Auckland? There of us is 1,270 nautical miles of between Sydney and the North seems to be an expectation in ocean racing that will be as de-Sydney that is how the fourth manding as any I have ever leg of the Whitbread Round been in before. I don't think the World race will unfold. that we will sail the boat any dif-Eyeball to eyeball sailing. A ferently than in the longer sprint of an intensity never legs, even though there will be extra intensity in the crew work - like all hands on deck for sail

Leg three from Fremantle to Sydney showed just how close the racing can be in these Cup into the watch routine boats at this level. So, it will be within a few hours of clearing a tough leg. In this sort of fleet racing, these guys are not here to make friends,

The leg to Auckland will not be as demanding tactically as the one to Sydney. Basically

Cape of New Zealand. Depending on the weather, your course will be north or south of the line, or even right down the middle.

However, there will be a right way and a wrong way. And that will be apparent as the fleet converges on New

From North Cape it is down the east coast to Auckland. And, despite what the experts say, local knowledge doesn't count for much in the dash down the coast. The island is narrow north of Auckland and

there is no sea breeze as such. One thing is for sure, everyfinal 24 hours it will take to sail down that east coast.

A downwind leg would be great, but the chances of that are almost zero. It is more likely to be light to moderate, sailing either hard on the wind, or just cracked off on a tight

The New Zealanders on board Merit Cup are keen to get home. Most of us have been away since late June or early July. Three weeks in Auckland will be wonderful. The leg into Auckland has a special place for New Zealanders. But in the back of my mind is the knowledge that it won't be easy getting there. and that is a worry for me.

finishes into Auckland. In 1990, as skipper on board Fisher &

Paykel New Zealand, we duelled with Peter Blake on Steinlager 2 right down that coast and he got the better of a squall just a few miles from the fin-

Then, in 1994, New Zealand Endeavour and Tokyo fought it out metre by metre to be first into Auckland. It is something I will never forget. It was well after midnight and there must have been more than 3,000 small boats waiting for the yachts. Some people in launches had followed us for more than 100 miles and, depending on who was doing the counting, Viaduct Quay.

The breeze was light and fluky. My maxi's huge sails were barely filling and the finish line seemed so far away. More to the point, Chris Dickson and his Whitbread 60 Tokyo were between us and the line. Then we got a few puffs and took Dickson on the inside.

It was a very sweet victory. It was about that time that I started to get a reputation for tight finishes. But it is not by choice. When Dickson pulled out of this Whithread in Cape Town, my first thought was that rather looking forward to it. sults from here on in

I have been in some tight 25,000 people were waiting at However, this fleet is so tight, it will probably happen anyway.

> For this leg we will have Tom Dodson - a renowned yachtsman with a string of international successes to his name on board. When we were doing the planning for this round the world race, it was apparent that the shorter legs would require additional skills. Tom will also sail with us on the short legs from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore and from La Rochelle

to the finish at Southampton. We are looking for a top three result on this leg. Fourth place in the last leg put us back we would not be able to do a re- in the running, but what we play of that finish. We had been need are consistently good re-

RUGBY LEAGUE

Arnold boosts Huddersfield's ambitions

Dave Hadfield Huddersfield . Halifax

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NEW YOUR FEE.

akham

Two late tries from Danny Arnold, one of the players signed this winter in preparation for Super League, gave Huddersfield a draw with their neighbours that can only help their confidence when they start the season in earnest.

The late salvage operation gave the newly elevated club a share of the revived Huddersfield Infirmary Cup. More importantly, it showed their supporters that after the Boxing Day débâcle against Warrington they are at least going to have a stab at being competitive.

Huddersfield were well in the game throughout the first half and retook the lead when Paul Cook scored a spectacular 80-yard try early in the second.

NUMBER

The number of years since James Alexander Gordon, who reads the football results on BBC's Sports Report, saw a live game. Gordon, 62, who has read the results for 25 years, last attended a match at Brockville Park, to see Falkirk play Celtic at the age of 12.

However, the difference in the level of concentration required in moving up from the First Division seemed to have found them out when the defence opened up to allow Martin Pearson and Danny Seal through for tries.

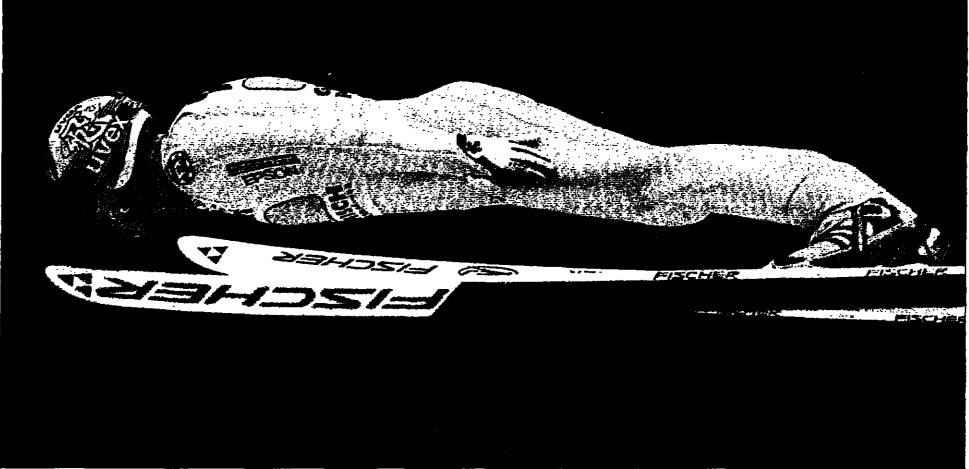
But then Amold, a £50,000 recruit from St Helens, burst into life. After having one try disallowed for a forward pass, he struck in the 73rd and 78th minutes, getting over from close range on both occasions despite the presence of defensive cover.

"I was very pleased with the way Danny took his tries," the new Huddersfield coach, Garry Schofield, said. "That's why we were keen to bring him here. He's got plenty of speed and knows his way to the try-line."

It was unfortunate for Huddersfield that Cook, another player of proven quality on whom they will be relying next season, failed so narrowly with both kicks, hitting the post with the first and seeing the second drift inches wide. But a draw was than the average friendly and in of ruining the sport in England. which both sides had shown plenty of enterprising play.

Halifax, one of the few Super League sides who look potentially weaker on paper this year. must hope that a new influx of Australians will lift them when the serious competition starts.

Hallian: Souveng; Marns, Tuilagi, O'Lough-in, Murro; Pearson, Dean; Marshell, Seal, Baldwin, Highton, Gillesple, Mosna. Substi-tutes used: Hobson, Rushforth, Anselme.



Flight path: Kazuyoshi Funaki of Japan soars through the air on his way to victory in the second round of the Four Hills ski-jumping competition at Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. The tournament is held in the two German resorts of Garmisch and Oberstdorf, and Innsbruck and Bischofshofen in Austria Photograph: Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters

enforce it." he said.

strong England team.

coach, resigned from the Buda fair outcome of a game con- weiser League dub vesterday and tested with more commitment accused top players and bosses

> Tucker is returning to Mississippi to rehabilitate from severe backaches caused by a car accident in January. But another reason for his departure is the "disgust" he feels for the approach of English basketball. "I will never come back to

England to coach," he said. Tucker claimed that teams are not competing on a level playing field and rapped the League for not strictly enforcing the £140,000 salary cap. "I'm dis-

Storm coach resigns in anger Skah ordered to training camp India may sack Tendulkar

nour the salary cap. If they're going to have one, they have to The London Towers coach.

Athletic Federation Kevin Cadle, and the Leopards chief Billy Mims, both television pundits for Sky Sports, were two further targets for Tucker's anger. Tucker also criticised the English Basketball Association for failing to give the England coach. Laszlo Nemeth. the support he needs to build a

Nigel Gough, the Durham

year yesterday amid speculation

Ramakant Desai, the chair- 19 January in Dhaka.

Pakistan and Bangladesh in a one-day tournament from 10 to

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

12.50: 1. KEY GHP (GF Flyan) 13-8 fer; 2. George Dillingham 11-2; 3. Point Duty 4-1 10 ran. 3½; 2½. (Mrs S Smith). Tota: 25.0, £70, £100, £2.20. DF; £11.70. CSF; £203. Incast: £2785. Tro: £11.70. NR: Ca-

25140 (part won).
225; 1. CHARMING ADMIRAL (J Suppl) 7-2 ft far; 2. Fessen 7-2 ft far; 3. No-bly Norman 15-2 18 run, 15, 29, (Mrs A Surbank), Tota: E390; 5210, 5200, 5380.
DF: 8390, CSF; \$1531, Wio: \$1020, NR; Fu-

cost T. Arvashanch (L. Wyer) 2-1; 2. Catabartend Blues 2-1; 3. Revie de Vales 33-1 4 ren. 7-4 fer Duel Image. 3. diet. (J. Jefferson). Rote: 52:20. DF: 52:40. CSF: 5584. Orly times frieshed. 3.25-1, FEN TERRIER (F. Supple). 11-8

Bungee Jumper. Plecapot: £1750. Quadpot: £600. Place 6: £5462. Place 5: £4095. CHELTENHAM

12.30: 1. MAHLER (C Llavelyn) 9-2; 2. River-Bay 5-2; 3. Dunnicks View 66-1. 6 res. 65 for Edgernor-Price (unsealed ride) 29, det; (N Twistor-Daves, Chellanham). Tota: 2520; 2190; 2190 DF: 2720 CSF-2144

1.80: 1. PETE THE PARSON (M A PERSON) (M A P

4 fee; 2. Ocean Hank 7-2; 3. Tump 3-1, 5 zzn., 1:d, 37., (O Nicholson, Temple Gui-ting), Tobes \$250; £150, £200, DF: £440, OSF-£181;

Harding) 6-4 Jt fav; 2. Sleney Seace 9-2; 3. Fled Out More 14-1, 6 ren. 6-4 it fev Irish Stamp (pulled up): Dist, 17. (G Richards Graystoke). Totac £240; £130, £270. DF: CS81: 65F: 65F8 3.55: 1. PRINCEFUL (R Ferrard) 5-5 tav. 2. Moorden 5-2; 3. Kershil 5-1 6 ran. 8, 14. Pars. Upper Lambourn), Tota: 5220; 5170, 5190. DF: 5270, CSF: 5452Jackpot: not won (pool of £27,875.22 car-ried forward to Newbury today). Placepot: £966.00. Quedpot: £182.20. EXETER

EXETER
1.10: 1. DOVETTO (A P McCoy) 7-1; 2. Lyphard's Fable 13-2; 3. Spariding Buck 9-1 9 ran. 2-1 fav Watter's Deathy. 5, dist. (A Price). Tota: 28:80; 52:40, £150, £150, DF: \$43:80, CSF: £0784. Tito: 55:80 (part won). Only three frished.
1.40: 1. COEUR BATTANT (V Stattery) 8-1; 2. Alice's Mirror 7-1; 3. Musical Monarch 2-1 far; 4. Partislan 10-1 16 ran. 3, 5, (R Select). Tota: £5:50; £100, £160, £160, £160, DF: £150. CSF: £5:509. Titoss: £7:52.38. Tric: £2:170.

E3181 DF: FISH CAT I BOOK INCASE | 1252.8 This: 22.10.
2.10: 1. PENNYINOOR PRINCE (J Frost)
7-1; 2. Tordorf Express: 100-30; 3. The Promes 12-1.8 ran. 8-11 fav. Johns (Rth), Mr. 8. (R Frost), Totas: 2730; 2150, 2100, 2290.
DF: 2000, CSF: 23182. This: not won. NR:

fav. 2. Jason's Boy 2-1 5 ran. Oist. (P Hobbs), Tota: £180; £140, £150, DF: £230. Todas, Toda 120, 2 mo friehed.

3.40: 1. SADLER'S REALM (Ar R Widger)

6-4 (t fav; 2. Handy Lass 5-1; 3. High Low
1/2. 7 ran. 6-4 (t iss Aires' Soit 1 (4th), 5. dist.
(P Hobbs). Tota: £210; £140, £240, £7. £830.

Placepot: £3970. Quadpot: £810. Place 6: £5500. Place 5: £885. LEICESTER

1.25t 1. PERSOUN ELI (E. (S FORDA) 7-2; 2. Logical Step 7-4 it fay; 3. Play Games 7-4 it fax 4 ran. Hd. 20. (C Egerton). Total 200: DF: 2290. CSF: 28.86. 2.00: 1. BRIGHSTONE (Mr G Elioth 11-10

2.00: 1, BRIGHSTONE (Mr G Eliofi) 11-10 fax; 2, Chilli Boom 18-1; 3, O My Love 20-30, 6 rat. 316, 2, (M Pipe), Total: C180; C141, C280, DF: C360, CSF: £1755, 2.30: 1, CLARE MAN (T Jorks) 4-1; 2, Cattly Hang 9-1; 3, Art Prince 8-1, 9 ran, 7-2 it is viannesse Kine, 3, 18, (N Twiston-Davies), Total: £370; C180, £390, £270, DF: £4400, CSF: £3731, Tricest; £25559, T

LINGERED

LINGFIELD

1.05: 1. IMPULSIVE DECISION (Dean McGeown) 4-1; 2. Mystagogue 7-2 jt kav; 3. Cettle Comtent 5-1; 11 ran, 7-2 jt kav Alte Egyta, 114, 7. (Martyn Meade). Driae 15: 00; 22:00, 22:20, 12:80. DF: 1:360. CSF: 27:55. This: \$25:50. NR: Ledy Laphrosig. 1:30: 1. BADRIMATH (J. Curn); 14-1; 2. Sharbederid 3-1; 3. Blue Lamp 16-1: 13 ran. 5-2 fav Super Monarch. 117; 2. (H. Collingridge). Totat: \$19:60: \$4:30. £1:30. \$2:70. DF: \$2:800. CSF: \$2:383. \$1:30. \$2:70. DF: \$2:800. CSF: \$2:5838. \$1:00: £7:960. NR: Antha in Wales. No. 11 Anias in Wales. \$(50-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply.

2.80-1. PAGEBOY (I. Chamock) 8-1: 2. Half Tone 4-1; 3. Str2ling 7-1 11 ran. 11-4 fav Eastern Prophets (4th). 11/4, nlc. (P. Haslarn), Tota: 29:0; 22:0, 21:0, 22:00. DF: 20:00. CSF: 23:632. Thoast: \$21:775. Tho:

eender. Placepot: £88.90. Quadpot: £23.90. Place 6: £72.27. Place 5: £48.75. WINDSOR

WINDSOR
12.50: 1. SOUNDS LIKE FUN (J F Taley) evens fav; 2. Wren Warbler 7-1; 3. Phihybelic 1-4. 6 ran. ½, 5. (Mss H Knight,
Wartage). Tote: £180: £120, £210. DF:
£440. CSF: £518. NF: Hum in Haw.
1.25: 1. HALONA (D Galagher) 11-4 fav;
2. Shepherds Rest 3-1; 3. Diego 7-1. 7 ran.
4. 1½. (C Morlock, Wartage). Tote: £330;
£230, £170. DF: £530. CSF: £1039. Thoast
1.4519. NF: Sader's Resim.

Upper Lambourn) Tota: \$1020; \$220, \$200 DF: \$3130 CSF: \$146. NR: Cessos 80y; 3.05: 1. COLONEL BLAZER (J.F. Titley)

3.00; 1. NATIVE CHARM (JA McCarth) 2-1; 2. Skycab 5-4 fay; 3. Werdworth 25-1 12 ran. 14, 12, (C. Morlock, Warmogh, Tota; 1220; 21-0), 2150; 2330 DF: £190 GSF: £461 Tho: £1850 ino: 17800 Piacepot: £212.70. Quadpot: £9400 Piace 5: £82.14 . Piace 5: £513.

SPORTING DIGEST

Jeff Jones will stand in as

American football The Buffalo Bills coach, Mary Levy, has resigned. He led the Bills for 12 years and guided them to the Superbow four times without achieving a wrr. He retired efter Buffalo lost six of their last seven cames to finish with a disappointing six NFL wins and 10 defeats.

Basketball NBA: Washington 118 Toronto 91

Aberdeen's attempts to secure the Coventry City midfielder Michael Of Neil on a three-month loan deal have O'Neil on a mee-monin loan deal inser-collapsed after a row over the antic-ipated transfer fee. Negotethors broke down when Coventry reportedly de-manded a guarantised fee in the re-gion of £200,000 should the move

The Birmingham City manager, Trevor Francis, was poised to sign Simon Charlton for £250,000 yesterday if the Southampton left-back moves to St Andrew's, it will take to 21 the number of purchases Francis has made

in 20 months in charge. Gary Germaine, West Bromwich Al-bions Scotland Under-21 international goalkeeper, has joined Shrewsbury Town on loan with a view to making a permanent move to Gay Meadow. The ipswich Town forward Nei Gre-gory has signed for Colchester Unit-ed on a month's loan. He joins his elder brother David, a regular in the Third Division side's detence, at Layer Road, Wolves' Paul Simpson has been

banned for three games after the first sending-off of his career against Reading last month The Premiership official David Elleray, from Harrow, will referee both legs of the Uefa Super Cup final between the European champions, Borussia Dortmund, and the Cup-Winners. Cup holders, Barcelona, this month. The first leg is at Nou Camp on 8 January, the return is in Germany three days later EMPEROR'S CUP Final (Tokyo): Kashima

The German men's team will play four The German ments sean win pay for lest matches in india next week. The series, from 5-11 January, begins the countdown to the World Cup in Utrecht in the Netherlands later this year. The Tests will be in Madras, Ban-galore, Amritsar and New Delhi.

ATHLETICS

tomorrow's international crosscountry meet in County Durham is in doubt after he was ordered home by the Moroccan

Skah has been told by his national governing body that he must join up with his Moroccan team-mates at a training camp. Morocco is hosting this year's World Cross-Country Championshins in March and the Moroccans are keen to end Kenya's domination of the event.

Skah contacted Durham or-Derby's coach for tonight's trip to Newcastle and this weekend's will not accept the demands anywhere else."

why he must return home. Skah, who has won the indi-

in 1990 and 1991, would love to sacked as captain. achieve a third victory on home soil, but said that to achieve that aim it is only logical that he should be allowed to take part events such as Durham.

race director, said: "Khalid is extremely upset at what is going on and he just cannot underganisers telling them of the prob-stand why he's being told that lem, although he insisted that he he cannot race in Durham or

Steve Tucker, the Derby Storm gusted the big teams don't ho- Khalid Skah's participation in made on him and is asking his ! Indian cricket, which has slid to man of selectors, denied rufederation for an official reason abysmal levels in the past year, mours that Tendulkar had offaces its first crisis of the new fered to step down. "Sachin has vidual world cross-country titles that Sachin Tendulkar may be captain. Whatever the decision,

> Indian selectors have reportedly lost patience with the talented 24-year-old batsman, who failed to lead India to a win in IAAF World Cross Challenge in 12 Tests in 1997 and managed just 10 victories in 39 one-day internationals.

> > The selectors meet today to choose a captain and team for a three-nation limited-overs tournament in Bangladesh this

not told us he wants to quit as it will be entirely ours," he said.

Under Tendulkar, who became captain in August 1996, India have won just three of their 17 Tests and 17 of 54 one-dayers. His last Test win was at home in December 1996 against South Africa, before India were beaten in away series in South Africa, the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

India face their arch rivals

CATTERICK

Effici. Incast: \$2785 Tro: £1170 Not Carnadan Fantasy.

1.20: 1: WHITEGATE'S SON (C McComack) 14-1; 2. Good Day 11-4; 3. Pancoras Lord 8-1. 8 ran. 9-4 fav Gasshouse 8, 7. (B £850n). Tota: \$1290; £180, £140, £180, DF: £4500, CSF: £4888.

1.55-1. PERME EXAMPLE (L Wyer) 4-5 to; 2. Allerbank 20-1; 3. Sniper 100-1 15 ma. 7; %. (Martin Todhunter). Tota: £150; £150, £370 DF: £1030, CSF: £2042. Tho: £2540 (part word).

2.58: 1. ANABRANCH (L Wyer) 2-1; 2.

ter, 2. Catherine's Choice 10-1; 3. Ericotin 6-1 6 rest. 1/4. (F Martegh). Tota: \$2.10; \$170, \$2.80. DF: \$720. CSF: £13.78. NR:

Only three finished.

1.80: 1. PETE THE PARSON (M A 1.80: 1. PETE THE PARSON (M A

21 (W Clay, Fuenci), Total: £1280; £1200, £160, £200, DF: £3400, CSF: £9725. 2.10: 1, KENDAL CAVALIER (D Saler)

3.20: 1. MCGREGOR THE THIRD (B

Churchown Chance. 2.40: 1. TOM TAILOR IP Holey) 9-2: 2. Reinbow Star 2-1; 3. Pelseunon 6-4 tax 9 ran. 7, dist. (D. Esworth). Tota: \$490: \$150. \$100, \$150. DF: \$550. CSF: \$460. Tito: \$1060.

3.10: 1. IN THE BLOOD (C Maude) evens

3.00: 1. HUM 'N' HAW (D Bridgweter) 5-2 3.00: 1, HUM N' HAW (D Bridgwater) 5-2 fav; 2. Craileva Ster 7-2; 3. Inch Champion 20-1 9 ran. 7, 8. (Mas A Newton-Smith). Total 22:00; 5:160, 5:200, 5:200, DF: 54:80. CSF: 5:121. This: £8:10. After a stewards inquiry, Oriental Boy, who finished 4th, and Po Cap Eel, who finished 5th, were disquelled. 3.00: 1. MAJOR'S LAW (D Bridgwater) 5-4; 2. Crassio's Boy evens fax; 3. Grand Cru 5-1. 3 ran. 20, 12. (R Simpson). Total 5:10. DF: £10. CSF: £278. NR: Pomme Secret. cret. Placepot: £26920. Questipot: £1980. Place 6: £19721. Place 5: £19335.

does not apply. 2.05: 1. MAZEED (A McCarthy) 5-4 tay;

wesome Power 12-1; 3. Comanche penion 7-1.7 ran. 1%, nk. (P Evans) : £180; £140, £250. DF: £850. CSF

24360 3.75: 1, BILUE SHADOW (P Dobbs) 7-2 toy; 2, Muja's Magic 12-1; 3, Prince Oxfey 5-1 9 ran. 1½, 7, (R Harmon). Tota: 1340: £150, £280, £150 DF: £2920 CSF: £43.77. Tricast: £9622. Tric £8810 3.45: 1, AVANTI BILUE (Dane Oxfei) 6-1; 2, Yert Again 2-1 fay; 3, Memory's Music 20-1 11 ran. Srt-hd. 2½, (K McAulife). Tota: £890; £190, £130, £800, DF: £700, CSF. £7758 Tricast: £22054 Tric £390:0, NR: Research

P.30. SI/TU DF: 2530 CSF: CTU39. Incast. 2459. NR: Sadier's Realm. 2.00: 1. RECTORY GARDEN (J A McCarthy) 4-1; 2. Hawaiian Youth 20-1; 3. Lay-h OF 7-1.8 ran. 2-1 far Boots Madden (un-seniad fider). 5. 1½. (Capt T Forster, Downton). Toke: SSD: 5140, 6400. CSF: CE248. Thoust: C495.87. 2.35: 1. SPRUNG RHYTHM (Mr R Waking) 10-1; 2. Eau de Cologne 4-1; 3. Special Beat 100-30 fav. 5 ran. 23. 10; IK Bailey. Honer Lambourn). Toke: Std.20: C220. C200.

11-4 INV. Z. PHINING STORM OF 3. 3000 (1984) Inghuret Flyer 33-1 9 ran. 4. 1 (Mas H Kright, Wardage) Totas 2350; £170, £180, £350 DF: £1880, CSF; £2412, Tricast 5812. Tho: £24030. 3.35; 1. NATIVE CHARM (J. A McCarthy)

New York Rangers 0, Toronto 2 Boston 2 (of). Calgary 2 Montreal 3, Datas 2 Los Angeles 2 (of). Colorado 3 New York Islanders 1; Vancouver 0 Philadelphia 8.

Rallying

The Paris-Dakar Rally, starting in The Paris-Dakar Rally, starting in France for the first time in four years, drew huge crowds for the first stage yesterday. Some 68,000 people watched the single 12km timed spe-cial section at La Chetre, which was won by the Frenchman, François Flick, on a Honda motorcycle in 9 min-utes 33 seconds. About 10,000 peoutes 33 seconds. About 10,000 peo-ple saw the competitors off from Versailles, outside Pens, the fifth time the fally has started at the chateau but the first since 1988 in the race's hey-day. The 938km stage ended at Nar-bonne in the south of France, where today's second stage starts. Another Frenchman, Bruno Saby, the winner in 1993, was the fastest in a car in the timed section, the only driver under 10 timed section, the only driver under 10 ninutes in his Mitsubishi with 9:45. minutes in his Mitsubishi with 9:45.

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY (First stage, Versailles to Narbonne with a 12km special timed section at La Chetre) Cart.: 1 B Saby (Fr. Missubshi) + 10 + 5 sec; 3 J-P Fornenay (Fr. Missubshi) + 15 sec; 3 J-P Fornenay (Fr. Missubshi) + 20 S-L Schlesser (Fr. Buggy) + 1 16; 6 J-M Servia (Sp. Toyota) + 1 9: 7 M Pheto (Sp. Missubshi) + 1:27. 8 F Wambergue (Fr. Toyoya) 1:32. 9 L Ragland (US, Protruck) + 1 44; 10 C Souza (Por, Missubshi) + 1:52 Miotorcycles: 1 F Filck (Fr. Honda) 9 mm 33 sec. 2 F Fascia (Ir. NTM) + 8 sec; 3 A Mayer (Ege, KTM) + 12 sec, 4 8 sac; 3 A Mayer (Ger, KTM) + 12 sec, 4 Margues (Por KTM) + 18, 5 G Sala (1)

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football BELL'S SCOYTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION Celtic v Renoers (2.0)... LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v TNS Liansanifficial (730) HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Drooners v Rv. LAND Premier Division: Drognada v Bo-hermans (745), Shelbourne v University College Dublin (745), St Patrick's Athlet-ic v Sigo Rovers (745).

LINIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Worksop v Lincoln Utd (7:30) NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division. Naniwich v Newcastle Town (7:45) Basketball

DARTS: Skol World Championship (Cir-cus Tavem Purfice))

SNOOKER: World Championship qual-fiers (Nortreck Castle Buckpool)

KTM) +20, 6 J Roma (Sp. KTM) +21; 7 J Olmos (Sp. Honda) same trine; 8 J Brucy (Fr. BMW) +20, 9 V van Devemer (SA, KTM) +30; 10 T Magnaldi (Fr. KTM) 34

Rugby League FRIENDLY MATCHES: Hudde

Kazuyoshi Funaki began the new year the way he ended the old one, with a win, as he led a Japanese clean sweep of the poolium in the second leg of the Four Hills World Cup competition in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, enterted in Enterted the winese of the garmisch-FatterMirchen, Germany, yesterday. Funaki, the winner of the opening leg of the Four Hills in Oberstdorf on Monday, strengthened his quest to become the first Japanese jumper to claim the covered title and put himself forward as the gold medal favourite for next months Nagano

Olympics. Funaki's eighth career win was launched by a massive first jump of 119 metres, followed by a second jump of 116m. His total score of 2435 points was enough to fend off his com-patriot and the World Cup leader, Masahiko Harada, who set a hill record of 122m on his second effort. record of 122m on his second effort. FOUR HILLS WORLD CUP COMPETITION (Garmisch-Partenibrichen, Ger) (15 metre hill: 1 K Funski (Japen) 2435 points (first jump 190 metres, second jump 150); 2 M Herrick (Japen) 2418 (1440, 1220); 3 M Satioh (Japan) 2618 (155, 150); 4 J Ahonen (Fri) 2284 (1440, 1440); 5 J Sohnina (Fri) 2272 (145, 120); 6 P Peteria (Stoven) 2259 (155, 1700; 7 M Wagner (Serven) 2259 (155, 1700; 7 M Wagner (Serven) 259) (155, 1700; 170, 1440); 8 D Thoma (Ger) 2218 (150, 1735); 9 K Vositiosa (Japen) 2515 (1085, 1140), Four Hills oversall standings affer two of four events: 1 Funsia 4844; 2 Satioh 476; 3 Harraya 450; 4 Kingner 4447; 5 Ahonen 4441; 6 – Hannawatd (vositioka 4345; 8 A Goldberger (Aut) 4311; 9 S Horngacher (Aut) 4773; 10 A Widdhold (Aut)

AROUND THE RESORTS

ings: 1 Harada 579; 2 D Thoma (Ger) 496; 3 Soininen 457; 4 Peterla 401; 5 Funali 372; 6 Widhōld 341; 7 Seltoh 326; 8 N Kasai (Japan) 298; 9 Horngacher 262; 10 Ahonén Squash The 11-year-old Pakistani Haider Ja-mai Zafar will become the youngest player to compete in the British Junior Open when he faces Hong Kongs Dick

Lau in the preliminary round of the Un-der-14 event at Sheffield today.

The French Open champion, Gustavo Kuerien, accepted a wild card yester-day to play in next week's Australian Hardcourt Championships in Adelaida. The Brazilian was offered a wild card following the withdrawal from the event of Australias Mark Philippouss

Show (Mr (Mp)

Forecast

SNOW REPORT

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Beresford determined to end Newcastle's barren years

When John Beresford joined Newcastle United he expected his trophy cabinet would soon be bursting with silverware.

Five years down the line the shelves are bare and, as he tells Simon Tumbull, it is time the Magpies started to deliver - starting against Everton on Sunday.

Newcistle United have been this particular way before in their latter day era of great expectation and great disappointment. Three seasons ago their quest for silverware turned into the kind of Mersey mission Kenny Dalglish and his stuttering side will undertake

in the coming week. Andy Cole had gone and so had Newcastle's hopes of success in the title race. Blackburn, managed at the time by Dalglish, and Manchester United were disappearing over the horizon.

Keegan and his great pretenders was the FA Cup - until, that is, they encountered Everton in a sixth-round tie at Goodison Park. Dave Watson claimed the only goal of the tie - after Duncan Ferguson left the Newcastle defence in a suitably disorderly state.

"Yeah," John Beresford recalled, "it was a header from Mr Ferguson that did the damage." Beresford played at leftback for Newcastle that day. He is likely to be in their midfield when they return to Goodison on FA Cup duty on Sunday.

"The thing is," he continued, on the subject of Everton's towering totem, "you've really got to try to cut off the supply at source. It's up to the full-backs and the wide midfielders to stop quality balls coming in, because that's when he's at his most dangerous. Someone who is 6ft 5in and can jump is capable of causing you

hell of a lot of problems." Such concern is understandable. Defeat on Sunday

quarter-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup at St James' Park next Wednesday would effectively condemn Newcastle to yet another trophy-less season. After five defeats and two

draws in their last seven Premiership matches, the runners-up of the past two seasons start the new year 20 points behind Manchester United. More worryingly, with Everton and Tottenham Hotspur just six points behind, relegation has suddenly become the talk of the

"In all my time at Newcastle I've never experienced anything like it before," Beresford said, "but maybe the kick up the backside will be good for us. It makes you think. "Hang on a bit. It's not all glory, glory."

"There's always a big club that gets dragged down there and I think it's better to get this little warning now rather than when it might be too late. We know what we've got to do and it's up to us to put it right.

We're stuck in a little bit of

be going for us. It must be hard for the gaffer, because he's finding it very difficult to put out the team that he wants to and to use the formation be wants to. It would be nice to get a bit

"From a personal point of view, though, it is strange when you're coming off the pitch and



you're thinking, "We haven't won again". It's a new experience for me at Newcastle and it's something we've got to get out of very quickly.

"I don't care if we have a nightmare on Sunday, or I have a nightmare and we scrape a jammy 1-0 win. That's

The only prize left for Kevin and against Liverpool in the a rut in which nothing seems to what it sometimes needs to turn things round."

The 31-year-old Beresford has been at Newcastle ever since Keegan started to turn things round for the Tyneside club. He was the first long-term investment Keegan made after the short-term buys that helped avert the threat of relegation to the old Third Division.

He arrived from Portsmouth for £650,000 in June 1992 expecting to become part of the first Newcastle team to win a major domestic honour since Jimmy Scoular lifted the FA Cup in 1955. Five and a half years later he is still waiting. And so is Tyneside. "Of course the expectation is

great," Beresford said, "But I re-Alex Ferguson was under to win something when he first went to United. There was a lot of talk about him getting the sack at one point, but they gave him more time and eventually he got the

you shouldn't be too eager to seeking cause.

change things. The thing is at Newcastle we developed so quickly the expectations went sky high. We finished third the first season we were in the Premier League and we've been second the last two years.

"All of a sudden the supporters are saying. 'Well, hang on a minute, we are one of the best teams in the land'. But we still haven t won anything.

"This year, with us struggling in the League, the expectations are a little bit higher in the cup competitions. But to play for Newcastle you have to accept that. It goes with the territory. I'm going into these games thinking. Yeah, we've got to deliver.

"I came to Newcastle to win member the massive pressure things. I've still yet to do it. But this is the season it will hopefully happen."

It is more likely to happen if Beresford and his colleagues manage to remain on the cup trail long enough for Alan balance he wanted in the team. Shearer to add his attacking "It shows that sometimes clout to Newcastle's trophy-



John Beresford: Trophy chaser Photograph: Empics

Steve Fulton fires his second goal past the despairing dive of Chris Reid, the Hibernian goalkeeper, at Tynecastle yesterday

FA to ask for more **World Cup tickets**

The Football Association is to fans across the country travelling apply for more tickets for the in different directions," he said. World Cup finals following fears of a black market in France.

cent of tickets are intended for areas at Old Trafford. the French market, 20 per cent for the game's world governing body. Fifa, and 20 per cent between the two competing teams.

Sir Brian Hayes, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who is heading the FA's security operation, believes that number is too low and could lead to problems. He said yesterday that he would address the issue when he meets French police and tournament

organisers later this month. "I shall be raising such matters as their general policy on ticket control, segregation, how they will handle fans going to and with the enormous movement of

Manchester United fans

want to meet club officials to Under current rules, 60 per clear up the row over standing The problem has worsened in recent weeks amid claims of

bullying and intimidation by security staff. The situation came to a head on Boxing Day against Everton, when fans and security men fought as supporters were ejected from the ground.

At an emergency meeting of the Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association this week the club was urged to meet fans' leaders.

*The next home game is against Spurs on 10 January," Andy Walsh, the Association's spokesman, said. "We have to discuss this before then. The from grounds and inside them brutality of some of the securiand how they are going to cope ty staff has gone beyond a joke." Phil Casey

Premier Division Famborough (0) ...3 Woking (0) ... Underwood 47 2125 ston sent off, 49 Stevenage (0) Wordsworth 5: Grazioli 62 Dover (1)...... Adams 17 Budden pen 68

> INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Brindswith Edwards Mind, Aud All Live St. Browlich 5 Wednesfield 0; Bodomer St. Michaels 1 West Midlands Police 1; Chestown 1 Barwell 1; Celbury 1 Sandwell Borough 1; Polsad Wills 1 Halesowen Harriers 2. Pershore 2 Bridgnorth 2; Roboster O Stepenhill 1; Shiftral 0 Krypersley Victoria 5; Williamball 1 Rushall Olympic 1.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Halifax go seven points clear at top

Halifax Town beat struggling Gateshead 2-0 yesterday and extended their lead at the top of the GM Vauxhall Conference to seven points.

, 5

Establica (d

The Shaymen took their time to see off the league's bottom club, but two second-half goals from Geoff Horsfield sent the majority of an impressive crowd of 3,194 home happy.

The day's biggest crowd, and the largest of the season in the Conference, was at Aggborough, where 4,693 fans watched Hereford United cruise to a 4-1 win over their local rivals, Kidderminster Harriers. The game drew 22 more people than the reverse fixture: a 1-0 home win for Hereford over Kidderminster on Boxing Day.

The man with most to cele-Richard Leadbeater, a 20-yearold striker on loan from Wolves. who scored a hat-trick for Hereford within 37 minutes. The experienced Tony Agana added the fourth goal in the 89th minute, closely followed by a consolation for Harriers from Wayne Thomas.

Mickael Madar, Everton's new recruit, is not the only Frenchman hoping to make a big impression in English football in the second half of the season. Sutton United have high hopes of Naseem Akrour. whom they signed from the French semi-professional club Olympique Noisy-le-Sec last year. After 18 goals in nine games for Sutton's reserve team, the Algerian-born striker scored twice on his first-team debut in the top-of-the-table Ryman League encounter with Dagenham & Redbridge just

hefore Christmas. Tomorrow Sutton, the Premier Division leaders, are away to Bishop's Stortford, who will he staging their home fixtures at St Albans City for the rest of the season, having sold their Rhodes Avenue ground for housing development. Stortford's new stadium on Dunmow Road should be ready at the start of next season.

- Rupert Metcalf

Hibernian's fortunes run wild at Hearts

Heart of Midlothian2 Hibernian.

Hearts' dreams of starting the new year in pole position were ripped from them in a thunderous Edinburgh derby which provided tremendous entertainment for the capacity crowd at Tynecastle.

Fortunes fluctuated wildly as Hearts surrendered a 2-0 lead. looked as if they might lose the game, then came close to the victory they so desperately wanted. In the end, they remain one point behind Rangers. The Hearts of the first half were clearly the side that has maintained the challenge at the top of the league. The moves were flowing, the forwards dangerous and bottom-placed Hibs looked out of their depth.

The return of Shaun Dennis to the Hibs defence after an absence of a year appeared in the early stages to be too much of a gamble as the towering cen- Johnstone with a damaged tre-back struggled to keep up with the pace of the game.

er, might have felt some kind of change was necessary to reverse a sequence of results which has seen the club go 14 games without a win.

Chris Reid in the Hibs goal saved well in the fourth minute from Stéphane Adam and 60 seconds later he was collecting the ball from the net. A fast-moving attack began with Steve Fulton playing the ball to John Robertson, who passed to Neil McCann and a first-time cross found Fulton, whose glancing header arched over Reid into the net.

The second goal five minutes later gave a clear indication of

with a boost yesterday morning

when he was declared fit for to-

day's Old Firm derby. The

Swedish striker's participation

had been in doubt after he

missed last week's defeat at St

The Celtic manager, Wim

hamstring.

over the last few months. Fulton and Robertson again combined, but the ball broke to the Hibs central defensive pair of Dennis and Jean-Marc Boco. Both appeared to expect the other to clear, allowing Fulton to extend Hearts' lead with a well-placed

low shot into the corner. al motion up front.

ished high in the stand.

It seemed at that stage as if Hearts could score with every attack, Fulton, Colin Cameron and Stefano Salvatori had a stranglehold on the midfield, while Robertson was perpetu-

Cameron lifted a shot over the crossbar shortly after the

Larsson back for Old Firm crunch match

threat of Marco Negri.

central defensive pair of Marc

again, and ready to shackle the

has failed to recover in time,

however, meaning the captain,

Tom Boyd, will probably be the

one earmarked to track Rangers'

Frenchman Stephane Mahe

free-kick was deflected into the arms of the grounded goalkeeper. With five minutes of the first half remaining, Salvatori launched an effort which fin-

Hibs appeared down and out, but showed great strength of character in making a comeback. In the 51st minute, Kevin Harpcrossing for Andy Walker, who stooped low to head home after Gilles Rousset, the Hearts goalkeeper, left his line but failed to connect with the ball.

The response from Hearts was immediate as they set about

Danish striker, Brian Laudrup.

ter Smith is unlikely to make

substantial changes. Gascoigne's

relative lack of sharpness after

missing five games through sus-

pension, means he will proba-

bly be involved at some stage.

- Bryn Polmer

With nine goals in their last

Jim Duffy, the Hibs manag- the problems Duffy has faced second goal and a Robertson a period of sustained pressure which brought no reward, although Reid was forced to react to a powerful shot by Fulton. Harper began to use his

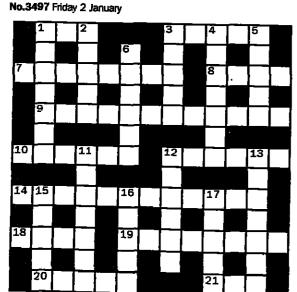
> pace to good effect, stretching the Hearts defence and causing GM Vauxhall Conference some anxiety among the home supporters. In the 67th minute, Hibs' second goal came from Pat McGinlay, who turned in an er skipped down the right before Andy Dow cross from the left as Hearts became increasingly disjointed. The calm poise of earlier had deserted them, allowing Hibs the chance to turn

the game on its bead. The desperation in Hearts' attack increased, with Fulton shooting over the bar, Salvatori mis-hitting his shot and Thomas Flögel firing over. Hibs might have sneaked a win at the end, but Fulton popped up on the line to divert Dennis' header. As it was, the credit and the glory belonged to Hibs.

Heart of Midlothian (4-4-2): Flousset; Locke, Weir, Ritchie, Poirton (Flögel, 75): Salvaton, Cameron. Fution, McCann (Hamilton, 85): Robertson, Adem Substitute not used: Frail Hitbernian (4-4-2): Reid; W Miller, Soco [Rouges, 87]. Dernis, Dods; Harper, Jack-son, McGraley, Dow: Walker (K Miller, 75). Crawford. Substitute not used: Chamley. Referee: B Tast (East Kilbride)

GAMES

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Henrik Larsson provided Celtic Jansen, also confirmed that his

Preserve (3) Creator (5) Flying (8) Brass instrument (4) Mislaid items (4,8) Really (6) Hurry along (6) Seasonal song (4,4,4) Rustic accent (4) Court of justice (8) Stratum (5) 21 Brick carrier (3)

DOWN

Rieper and Alan Shibbs were fit two games, Rangers boss Wal-

Field event (7) Resources (5) Tropical fruit (5) Young felines (7) Automaton (5) Walked painfully (6) Getting on in years Scottish dish (6) 13 Precious stone (7) 15 Normal (5) 16 Change (5) 17 Lad (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Donne, 4 John (Dungeon), 8 Pageant, 9 Chide, 10 Rota, 11 Taxpayer, 12 Deliberations, 15 Complain, 17 Avid, 20 Deign, 21 Arizona, 22 Stye, 23 Yarns. DOWN: 1 Digital, 2 Neat, 3 Extraordinary, 4 Jackpot, 5 Hairy, 6 Spur, 7 Debris, 12 Decide, 13 Balance, 14 Obvious, 16 Moist, 18 Dear, 19 Liar.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Game all; dealer South North **•**QJ97 ∇K ◊A K **♣**AQJ973 **♠**K42 ♥J 1097 ♥A85432 **♦J 1097** 08532 **₽**62 **4**54 South ◆A 10865 ♥Q6 0Q64

the greatest of contracts, but reasonable enough. With the trump finesse wrong, it looks as though everything depends on the lead; if West chooses a heart, it is all over.

risked coming to hand with a club, and discarded ♥K on Q. Now I could try for an overtrick. Living dangerously, I risked a club ruff and ruffed a heart on the table to try the trump finesse. No joy, but no ruff, and plus 1.430 was an excellent score. A colleague later admitted to minus 100

I was lucky; so muddled was our auction

that West led the OJ. I cashed OA,K,

on the hand. Obviously, I thought, his auction had attracted a heart lead, but his shifty look suggested that I should probe more deeply. It was a sad tale. For some unfathomable reason. West had led the \$2 against 6 . This was so clearly a singleton (!), that declarer decided his best bet was a simple trump finesse. When this failed, West lost no time in switching to a heart.

CHESS NEWS: Full coverage of the Adams-Anand world chess semi-final will appear in tomorrow's paper.

CHOICE: PLAY

Theatre, London WII (0171-229 0706) Most people's image of a winner of the Nobel prize for literature is male, worthy and wizened. Dario Fo is only the first of these. He has been described as one of the funniest performers alive for his solo piece. Mistero Buffo. Fo is the man who put explosive comedy into political theatre with smash hits such as .4ccidental Death of an Anarchist, which conquered the West End of all places. The same happened with Can't Pay, Won't Pay. Klaxons, Trumpets and Raspberries is a new production from the (bideously named) Juggling Fiends, who made a splash with Graham Greene's The End of the Affair. The show first appeared here with Griff Rhys Jones in the hilarious double role of a Fiat boss who survives an assassination attempt thanks to a worker, but then mistakenly is given the worker's features during plastic surgery. You can only begin to guess the rest.

Klaxons, Trumpets and Raspberries, Gate

David Benedict

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DOK

The Face (7.30pm BBC2) It is appropriate that, in a story of two climbers climbing a wall of rock named after an elongated mouthpiece, them should forget their tooth-Nancy Feagin and Barry Blanare flown deep into Canada's. h-west territory to climb the wet steep Mount Proboscis, a daunting which has never been climbed

TODAY'S PICK

before. This humbling film, the first in a series of six, is a tale of daring, bravery and the reluctance of people to exhange implements of personal hygiene, even if they are several thousand feet up in the air.

Stella Street (10.15pm BBC2) What on first viewing appeared to be a mere forum for a few camped-up

impressions turned into a wonderfully silly series which, sadly, comes to an end tonight as Phil Cornwell and John Sessions's celebrity-rich Surbiton finally implodes under the weight of its own egos. No match for last night's episode (in which Jimmy Hill popped round to Al Pacino's to borrow a cake nozzle and Joe Pesci had a lobotomy) but still top entertainment.



Sessions and Cornwell: 'Stella Street', BBC2

THE FILM

Nosferatu, a Symphony of Horrors (1.05pm С4) A television premiere for FW Murnau's 1922 silent classic, a vampire tale which drew heavily from Dracula. Francis Ford Coppola called it "the greatest movie ever made on the Dracula theme" and this is due in part to Murnau's photographic brilliance and his feel for the essence of his subject. So what if he stole Bram Stoker's plot and was sued by Stoker's widow for his trouble; he more than anyone captured the terror of the story. Max Schreck's cadaverous Count is a fearful creation, still scary after all these years.

6.40 Faces of Islam (S) (2052937). 7.00 :News; Weather (T) (8891753). 7.10 Children's BBC: Poddington Peas (R) (1275802). 7.15 Teletubbies (S) (2024598). 7.40 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (R) (S) (8453531). 8.05 Casper Classics (7) (7621753). 8.30 Mighty Max (R) (S) (4567531). 8.55 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (R) (4586666). 9.20 Blue Peter Review of the Year (R) (S) (T) (5041840). 9.50

Telefubbies (S) (2126173).

10.20 News; Weather (T) (6396463).

10.30 The Shaggy DA (Robert Stevenson 1976 US). Pleasant Disney cornedy about a lawyer who finds an applied the property of th ancient ring which turns him into a . shaggy sheep dog (63666). 12.00 The Good Life (R) (T) (22227). 12.30

Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (25802). 1.00 News (T) (27803802). .15 Neighbours (S) (T) (11806869). 140 Fin Suburban Commando (Burt Kennedy 1991 US). American wrestler Hulk Hogan aquits himself well as an alien who crash-lands in suburban America. Christopher Lloyd is his excellent self as the dad of the family he comes to stay with (\$) (1) (3839734).

3.00 Vets in Practice (S) (T) (3260). 3.30 Film Star Trek V: the Final Frontier (William Shatner 1989 US). An adventure too far for the geriatric astronauts with Captain Kirk going all deep on us. A disappointment which may upset fans (S) (T) (441482). Children's BBC: Blue Peter (S) (T)

(5782918). 5.35 Neighbours (S) (T) (298024). 6.00 News; Weather (T) (936173).

6.15 Regional News (7) (964956). 6.30 Rent-a-Kid (Fred Gerber 1995 Can), Christopher Lloyd again, this time with Leslie Nielsen in a pleasant comedy about a businessman (Neilsen) who rents out orphans to prospective parents (S) (4408043). Only Fools and Horses. Del's

application for a home-improvement grant is turned down by the local council (R) (S) (T) (624937). 8.55 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates. The case of the expelled nephew (S)

(1) (790005). lews; Weather (7) (178598). 10.05 Shirley Bassey: This is My Life! (S) (203376).

10.50 International Come Dancing, From the Royal Albert Hall (S) (571314).

11.50 Film Carry On Behind (Gerald Thomas 1975 UK), Professor Crumo enlists a band of students to excavate a Roman encampment in Britain.

Below-par Carry-ons (7) (350208).

1.20 Film Story of a Love Story (John Frankenheimer 1973 Fr). A writer living in Paris with his American wife and three sons falls madly in love with a girl he meets in a museum (574390). 3.00 Joins BBC News 24 (3597999).

To 7am REGIONS: Scotland 6.30 Are You Being Served? 7.00 Film: Rent-a-Kid 8.25 -8.55 The Wogan Years 10.50 Friday Sportscene 11.35 International Come Dancing

BBC2

6.55 Each Dawn I Die (William Keighley 1939 US). James Cagney as a pugnacious newspaper reporter in a

punchy melodrama (5467531). 8.20 The Roaring Twenties (Raoul Walsh 1939 US). Cagney again in a splendid gangster movie screened far too early in the day (11447918).

10.05 The Art of Singing (S) (2136821).
11.05 The Great Caruso (Richard Thorpe 1951 US). Superficial and sentimental musical biography of the legendary tenor Enrico Caruso, focusing on his romance with Dorothy Benjamin. Staming the silver-tonsified Mario Lanza. (81672802). 12.50 The Art of Singing (S) (6186173). 1.50 James Stewart - the Last of the

Good Guys (R) (S) (T) (3678376). 2.40 | Winchester '73 (Anthony Mann 1950 US). James Stewart is the sharp-shooter tracking his father's murderer who wins the eponymous gun in a shooting contest. A long chase for the stolen rifle ends with a nervy gun battle. A lean and moody

outing from Stewart (7140460).
Film Strategic Air Command (Anthony Mann 1955 US). Saga most notable for its dramatic aerial shots of US Air Force bombers. James Stewart plays a professional baseball player recalled to military service because of the flying skills he acquired during World War Two. (49088918).

6.00 The Simpsons (R) (S) (T) (681111). 6.20 Star Trek (R) (T) (263395). 7.15 Electric Circus (S) (706314). 7.30 The Face. See Today's Pick, above

8.00 The Fred Dibnah Story. Kicking off a new screening of steeplejack highlights, including the job that made him tamous (R) (S) (T) (2531). 8.30 Gardeners' World (S) (T) (1686).

9.00 Blackadder's Christmas Carol. Rerun seasonal comedy special, set in 1850. On Christmas Eve, just as he has tucked himself into bed, Ebeneze: Blackadder's relatives decide to pay him a visit (R) (S) (T) (148918).

9.45 Game On. Flat comedy series about three flatmates (S) (T) (665821) 10.15 Stella Street. See Today's Pick. above (S) (T) (858482).

10.30 The Armistice Party Bucket. Highlights from the freshest satirical comedy show on television. Friday Night Armistice. Starring Armando lannucci, Peter Baynham and David Schneider. (S) (1) (550/6 11.00 Gary Larson's Tales from The Far

Side. Award-winning animated version of the famous cartoons (R) (S) (3005). Film Bodies, Rest and Motion (Michael Steinberg 1993 US). Roger Hedden adapted his own play about tour soul-searching twentysomethings living in Arizona who attempt to untangle their lives. Tim Roth, Enc Stolz and Bridget Fonda star in a film which is a little too chilled-out to keep

our interest (21444). 100 Clive Barker's A-Z of Horror (7) (1051574). 145 The Cask of Amontillado (S) (8866406). To 2.10am

6.00 GMTV (9357227). **9.25** The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (S) (5042579). **9.55** London Today (T) (8595376). 10.00 Freakazoid! (S)

(79208). **10.30** Cartoon Time (4161289). **10.50 Bingo** (Matthew Robbins 1991 US). Syrupy kiddie comedy drama in which an abandoned circus dog is laken in by a young boy. Don't allow yourself to be (S) (T) (3038024). 12.20 Your Shout (7198482). 12.30 News;

Weather (T) (7076840). 12.55 London Today (1) (5217005).

1.30 Film Airport 80 - the Concorde (David Lowell Rich 1979 US). High camp and mid-air shenanigans on

board a Concorde flight from Washington to Moscow with members of the Russian and American Olympic teams on board. Spot the deliberate mistake (S) (T) (41647). 3.30 ITN News Headlines (7) (6340043).
3.40 London Today (7) (6280227).
3.45 Film Bronco Billy (Clint Eastwood 1980 US). Clint stars in this gentle

parody of himself as a shoe salesman turned sharpshooting, knife-throwing cowboy (S) (T) (101227). 5.40 News; Weather (T) (171918). 6.00 London Weekend Tonight (T)

6.10 Terrors of the Deep (R) (512173).
7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right (S) (T) (5127)
7.30 Coronation Street. Deirdre struggles to pick up the pieces. Cheer up chuck to borrow a line from Jagged Edge. "Forget him, he was trash", (T) (11),

8.00 The Bill (7) (9685). 8.30 Blind Men (S) (7) (8192). 9.00 Film The Distinguished Gentleman (Jonathan Lynn 1992 US) Eddie Murphy fairly successfully reprises his Tracing Places role in this often amusing political satire (S) (T) (7550). 11.00 ITN News; Weather. (T) (467482). 11.15 London Weekend Tonight (748869) 11.25 Film Harmful intent (John Patter-

son 1993 US) So-so tholler about a doctor and former morphine addict accused of murder (S) (7) (929173). 1.10 Box Office America (5532715) 2.10 Film Deadly Encounter (William A Granam 1972 LIS) Larry Hagman (ails to contince as a veteran combat pilot

n Mexico (S) (802406). 3.50 Rockmania (R) (S) (7-76630). 4.45 (TV Sport Classics (50582945): **5.05** Collins and Macchie's Move Club (F) (S) (6098116) **5.30** News (2416425) To 6am



CHANNEL 4 CHANNEL 5 VARIATIONS

6.00 Sesame Street (S) (42227). 7.00
The Babysitters' Club (R) (4454005).
7.35 Two Stupid Dogs (S) (8489956).
8.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (67463).
10.00 Zig and Zeg's Big Morning:
Happy Days (8054173). 10.35 Zig and Zeg's Big Morning: Saved by the Bell:
Wedding in Las Vegas (R) (S) (T) Wedding in Las Vegas (R) (S) (T) (8335005). **11.05** Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Moesha (S) (5506579). **11.30** Zig and Zag's Big Morning: The Monees (5154550). 12.05 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Coping with... (S) (1819550). 12.35 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Coping with . (S) (7061918).

1.05 Film Nosferatu (FW Mumau 1922

Gen. See Today's Film, above (66877043).

2.45 Film How to Marry a Millionaire (Jean Negulesco 1953 US). Witty tale about three beautiful models (Marilyn Monroe, Lauren Bacall and Betty Grable) who move into a plush New York apartment with a plan to land a trio of millionaires. It's no Gentleman Prefer Blandes but Monroe stands out as a myopic bimbo (7) (86091043).

4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (24) 5.00 Ricki Lake. Fat is the studio audience issue (1043). 5.30 Quilts in Women's Lives (R) (T) (76). 6.00 Best of TFI Friday (S) (T) (26531). 7.00 News; Weather (T) (8579). 7.30 The Typewriter, the Rifle and the

Movie Camera. Intriguing documenlary screened as a Inbute to writer, producer and director Sam Fuller, who died earlier last year It features an interview with Fuller by actor Tim. Robbins while hipsters such as Quentin Tarantino, Jim Jarmusch and Martin Scorsese queue up to pay tribute to the old timer (R) (S) (T) (98799)

8.30 Brookside. Jackie tells Lindsay that staying with bad boy Barry will lead to heartache (S) (T) (6734). 9.00 Mary Shelley's Franken-stein (kenneth Branagh 1994 US)

Our ken took on too much with Mary Shelley's late - as director, co-producer and star the film slips away, with only De Niro putting in a monster performance Helena Bonham Carter, Richard Briers. Robert Hardy and John Cleese are among the cast who fail to deliver but the buck stops with Branagh whose over-ambitious effort, rather misses the point (T) (45035395). 11.20 Bill Bailey Live. The talented musi-

cian comedian live from London's Bloomsbury theatre (S) (356482) **12.25 [Film] Countess Dracula** (Peler Sas dv 1970 UE F Hammer horror yarn in which an ageing Hungarian countess. bathes in the blood of slain virgins to

preserte her beauty (7) (761203) 2.05 Film Shock Corridor (Samuel Fuller 1963 US). Powerful melodrama. about a reporter's obsession with

winning the Pulitzer Prize (T1 (747845)
4.00 Pim Park Row. (Samuel Fuller 1952) US) Newspaper drama set in the 1880s about an editor whose efforts to establish his own paper are challenged by a former publisher's dirty-tricks campaign (299852) 5.40 Terrytoons (8963951) To 6am

6.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (6687024).6.30 Wind in the Willows (56622024). 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss (S) (94959918). 7.00 Wimzie's House (R) (6522173). 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (6541208). 8.00 Havakazoo (R) (S) (7277802). 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (R) (S) (7276173). 9.00 Stickin' Around (R) (7290753). **9.30** Wishbone (R) (8782901). **10.00** Enid Blyton - The Secret Mountain (75711005). 11.50 Animal Xtremes (43635802). 12.00 The Bold and the

Aflairs (S) (7) (9894727). 1.00 5 News Update (S) (76397956). Sunset Beach. Olivia tries to stop Cole spilling the beans about their affair in the winningly dreadful US

Beautiful (7) (7287289). 12.30 Family

soap (S) (T) (9150531). 2.00 Animal Xtremes (73365598). 2.10 Film The Yearling (Rod Hardy 1994 US). Sugary remake of the wellregarded 1964 version, the touching story of a young boy from a poor lamity who betriends a deer. His parents allow him to keep the orphaned lawn. but when it begins eating their crops, an appointment is swiftly made at the

abbatoir. (9777840). 4.05 Film Witness for the Prosecution (Alan Gibson 1982 US). Madetor-TV version remake of Billy Wilder's nail-biting courtroom drama with Diana Rigg slipping comfortably into Marlene Dietrich's shoes. (95386442). 6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (8203395).

6.30 Family Affairs. Maria and Mel discover that Duncan's theme bar has gone bust, poor lad (S) (T) (8294647) Family Affairs - The Story So Far. How time flies - the bland soap celebrates its 200th episode and this is a "fun-filled frolic" through the lives and loves of the characters during their first nine months (S) (T) (9077024).

7.30 Exclusive (S) (8283531). 8.00 Name That Tune. With host Jools Holland (S) (9053444).

8.30 5 News Including First on Five (S) (T) (9072579).
Film The Other Mother (Bethany

Rooney 1995 US). The winning combination of television movie and true story that Channel Five is so fond of. This one follows a woman's struggle to find the son taken away from her as a teen mum (87319395)

10.50 La Femme Nikita. When Birkoff panies on a mission. Section One killing him. (5624444). 11.45 Film Full Exposure: the Sex

Tapes Scandal (Noel Nossek 1989 USI Very poor thriller about the murder of a high-class prostitute and the theft of her video diary of clients (8147840)

1.35 On Wings of Eagles (6707116) 3.20 Film Money, Women and Guns (Richard Bartlett 1959 US) Taul western in which a detective searches for the beneficiaries listed in the will of a murdered prospector. (68005086) **4.45 Night Stand** (4164222) **5.30 100 Per Cent** (R) (SI (6651609)

Anglia
As Cartton except: 9.55 Anglia News and Weather (8595376) 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (7198-82). 12.55 What's My Line? (5217005). 3.40 Anglia News and Weather (6260227). 6.90 The Baldy Man (47) 6.30 Anglia News (27) 11.15 Anglia News and Weather (74869). 1.10 Emertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (921970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476680) 4.45 Sound Bites (99233406). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067). Central Central

As Cartton except: 9.55 Central News (8595376), 12.20 Central News and Weather (7198482), 12.30 ITN News; Weather (7076840). (7199482). 12.30 TRI News; Weather (7076840). 12.55 The Fashion Police (5217005). 3.40 Central News (6280227). 5.40 News, Weather (171918). 6.00 Trading Places (47). 6.30 Central News and Weather (27). 11.00 TRI News; Weekend Weather (467482). 11.15 Central News. Weather and Travel Updale (74369). 3.50 Rockmania (81008574). 4.05 Jobfinder (359203). 5.20 Asian Eye (1085086). 5.30 TRI Morning News (18067).

HTV Wales

HTV Wales
As Carlton except: 9.55 HTV News
(\$595378) 12.20 HTV News (7198482): 12.55
Dinosaurs (2343260): 1.20 Warner Brothers Carlton (89417753): 3.40 HTV News (6280227).
6.00 Murder, She Wrote (523289): 6.50 Wales
Tonight (252918): 11.15 HTV News (748889): 1.10
Entertainment Now (720.767): 2.05 Film Dead
Cert (921970): 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival
(7476880): 4.45 Sound Bites (99233406): 5.00
Coronation Street (80715): 5.30 ITN Morning
News (18067):
HTV West

HTV West As HTV Wales except: 12.20 News; Weather (7198482). 6.50 The West Tonight (252918). 1115 The West Tonight Update (748869). Meridian

Meridian
As Carton except: 9.55 Mendian News and Weather (3595376). 12.20 Mendian News and Weather (7198482). 12.55 Shortland Street (5217005). 3.40 Mendian News and Weather (5260227). 5.40 News: Weather (171918). 6.00 Mendian Torught (35289). 11.00 News; Weekend Weather (467482). 11.15 Meridian News and Weather (748869). 1.10 Entertainment New (720-767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (921970). 3.50 TV at the Reading Festival (7478680). 4.45 Sound Bites (99233406). 5.00 The Making of Men in Black: (80715). 5.30 News (16067). Westerounity

Men in Black' (80715). 5.30 News (16067).

Westcountry
As Carlton except: 9.55 Westcountry News (8595376) 12.20 Westcountry News (7198482).
12.27 Illuminations (7173173) 12.55 Emmerdale (5217005). 3.40 Westcountry News (6280227).
6.00 Westcountry Live (35289) 11.15 Westcountry News (748869). 1.10 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (921970) 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476680) 4.45 Sound Bites (92233406). 5.00 Cronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (76067).

Vorkshire/North Fast

Yorkshire/North East As Carlton except: 9.55 Regional News and Weather (8595376) 12.20 Regional News and Weather (7198482) 12.55 Emmerdale Weather (7194482) 12.55 Emmerdale (5217005), 3.40 Regional News (6280227), 6.00 Regional News and Weather (47), 6.30 Ghost Stories with Ian Clayton (27), 11.35 Regional News and Weather (748869), 3.50 Roct.mania (7527932) 5.30 ITN Moming News (16067).

S4C
As Charmel 4 except: 12.35 Zig and Zag's Big Momng: Coping with (7073753). 1.00 Slot Methrin Ty Rhys a Tomos y Tanc (15598) 1.30 Film The Railway Children (49289) 3.30 Time Team Special (87395) 5.00 Spump: Pendroffobia (492579) 5.15 Spump Celfagati (5707227) 5.40 Crelyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu Hanimeiddio (16256) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (938531). 6.10 Heno (543043) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (418647). 7.25 Crolty - y Fisyddyn (7607111) 8.30 Celh Gwlad (67331) 9.00 Equinox Special (2869) 10.00 Brookside (677937). 10.35 Adam and Joe's Fourmative Years (838111) 11.25 Bill Bai-

Joe's Fourmative Years (638111) 11.25 Bill Bai-ley Live (961173) 5.40 Close

Radio 1
.97.6-99 8MHz PM.)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Mark Good-er. 12.30 Mary Anna Hobbs. 3.00
Dave Pearce. 5.55 Newsbeat. 6.00
Pete Tong - Essential Selection. 9.00
Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio
1 Rap Show. 2.00 One in the Jungle.
4.00 - 6.00 Clive Warren. Radio 2

Ractio 2 (88-90 2MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Alfinson. 7:30 Sarah kernedy 9:30 Alex Lester. 71:30 Jim-my Young. 1:30 Debbie Thrower. 3:00 Ed Stewart. 5:05 John Durin. 7:00 Hubert Grego. 7:30 Finday Night Is Music Night. 9:35 Dracuta. 9:30 Lis-ten to the Band. 70:00 Radio 2's Hol-harcon Christmas. 10:30 Rob Harris. hwood Crinstmas. 10.30 Bob Herris. 100 Charles Nove. 4.00 - 6.00 Lata

Radio 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air 9.00 Morning Collection. 10.00 Musical Encounters. 12.00 Composers of the Weelc Twentieth-Century American Song. 100 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 260 The BBC Archive. See Choice 4.45 Turns of the Century. 5.00 The Changing Orchestra. 6.30 Solti Resounding. (R) 7.00 Performance on 3. 8.05 Postscript. Literature: Richard Hoggart, Bizabeth Jernings: Richard Adams, Sir Frank Kermode, Dr Anthony Storr and John Julius Norwich talk

shout now their testes in Renature and poerly have changed.

9.25 Haydh and Barlok. The stuth programme in a 14-part setes cou-WII (DITIES programme in a re-pair sense dur-pting Haydin sonetas with some of Bartok's major pisano works. Arine Queffelec (pisano), Haydin: Soneta in D, H XVI 24. Bartok: Sonetina, Haydin: Soneta in E minor, H XVI 34. 10.00 Heer and Now. For the new year, a distinctly European edition, in-troduced by Andrew Spering, Pierre Boulez: e e cummings ist der cichter. Netherlands Chamber Chok, Schoen-Netherlands Chamber Choir, Schoen-berg Ensemble/Feinbert de Leeuw. Jonathan Lloyd: Symphony No 4 BBC: SO/Mentyn Brabbins, Gerard. Grisey: Les chants de l'amour. BBC Singers/Simon Joly. 11.30 Composers of the Week: British Light Music. (R) 12.30 Kenton's Innovations. (R) 100 - 6.55 Through the Night.

Radio 4

(92.4.94.6MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.

8.45 Facts and Fancies.



CHOICE

The BBC Archive (2pm R3)

A slightly more upbeat end to the week than usual, with Geoffrey Smith presenting a selection of jazz performances and interviews from the archives - Duke Ellingson (above) playing at Westminster Abbey in 1973, and Alistair Cooke introducing Thirties sessions with Sidney Bechet and Jack Teagarden.

9.05 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Bon Appetit. 10.00 NEWS, Winters' France. 10.30 Woman's Hour. **1L30** The Natural History Programme. 12.00 NEWS, You and Yours. 12.25 The Food Programme. 19.55 Weather. 100 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 NEWS; Classic Senal: War and Peace. 3.00 NEWS; The Alternoon Shift. 4.00 News. 4.05 Kaleidoscopa.

4.45 Short Story: Rumpole and the

7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serie

Widow Twankey. (R) 5.00 PM.

7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers.

5.00 PM. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Sox O'Clock Naws. 6.30 Going Places

presents extracts from the past week's BBC radio and television. 8.05 Any Questions? Nick Clarke is joined in Maidenhead, Berkshire. by panellists Christopher Chope, shadow spokesman for environment, transport and the regions; Pauline Green.

Labour MEP and leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament; last Group in the European Parliament; writer and columnst Joan Smith and historian Dr Dawd Starkey. 8.50 Second to None. Four programmes in which reporter Sara Parkgrammes in which reporter bear man ar encounters people who wait on the's substitute bench until they are called to do service as stand-ins. 2. The Floater (Stand-In Diplomat) 9.15 Letter from America. Alistan Cooke with another slice of 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. When Adam Cooper and his fellow male

dancers interpreted Swan Lake for the late 20th century, audiences knew the ballel would never be the same

The same company, Adventures in Motion Pictures, led by Matthew

Bourna is current, staging Cinderella and has worked on dance from Spitting to "Nutcracker for lan years" 9.59 Weathe: 10.00 The World Tonight With Robin

10.00 The visited rough.

10.45 Book at Bedfirme Playback, By
Raymord Chandler, abridged by
Robert Doods, read by Angus
Madnines, The linal part of Philip Marlovie's last case (R)

11.00 Year Ending A satirinal look
back at 1997 with Safly Grace, Jon
Glover, Dave Lamb and Sarah
Parkinson Parkinson 11.25 Tea Junction 11.45 Singular Women (R)

12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book Ghost Stones 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.50 Inshore Forecast 5.55 - 6.00 Shipping Forecast. Radio 4 LW

(196kHz) 10,00 NEWS, An Act of Worship 10,15 - 10,30 On This Day Radio 5 Live 1693, 9094 Hz MW) 6.00 Murray Walker's Grand Pro-World 6.30 The Breaklast Pro-

ramme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.30 The Celtic Tiger 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00 Football Extra 4.00 Na-Mair 2.00 Football Edita 4.00 Na-tonwide, 7.00 News Evita 7.30 The Politican, the Actress and the Bishop 8.00 Alan Green's Sponstall 9.00 Finday Sport 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Evita 11.30 The Cellic Tiger, 12.00 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports Classic FM

(100 0-101 9MHz FM) .00 Alan Mann 9.00 Henry Kelly. 100 Request Hour 2.00 Concerts 3.00 Caroline Bell 6.30 Newsright 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Jane Markham 2.00 Concerto 3.00 6.00 Sally Peterson

Virgin Radio 197-1260Hz MW 105-8MHz FMI 6.00 Nick Abbot 10.00 Robin Bariks 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Carmin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00 -**6.00** Howard Pearce. **World Service**

(198kHz LW)
100 Newsdesk, 130 Foul Play 2.00
Newsday 2.30 People and Politics,
3.00 World News 3.05 World Business Report 3.30 Science in Action
4.00 Newsdesk 4.15 Sports
Roundup, 4.30 Wheelend The World
Today (LW and SW 5875 only) 4.45
Off the Shelf Hinth Spirits (LW and SW Odday (LW and SW 50-7-0-00) Off the Snett High Spirits (LW and SW 5875kHz only) 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Outbook, 5.55 - 6.00 Spottight

SATELLITE/CABLE

Sky Movies Screen 1
600 Agains Christe's Dead Man's Full
(1986) (5646) 730 Currage's (1986)
(9382) 9.30 The Public See (1975)
(9676) 11.30 Sp. mand 1995)
(74579) 1.00 Robin and the See in
Hoods (1964) 90555; 3.00 Suich and
Sundance the Early Davis (1979)
(9882) 5.00 Short Christe's (1988)
(45790) 7.00 Precises Sp. Hard
(901936) 7.05 Sp. Hard (1996)
(7302)550) See Chard 1996)
(7302)550) See Chard 1996)
(7302)550) See Chard 1996
(1906) 1555(206) 10.35 The More
Show (45956) 11.05 Jun Duly 1996)
(831956) 12.35 Red Shoe Davies No
8 Night of Abandon (1995) (937668)

8 Night of Abandon (1995, (93/6683) 2.00 Preta-Porter (1994) (1/67/405) 4.10 - 6.00 Agama Christie's Dead Man's Folly (1/986) (4/63/9) Sky Movies Screen 2

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 8.00 They Flew Alone* (1941) (5043400) 7.45 Foot around the Cloch* (1956) (8476378) 9.05 The Son of Roben Hord (1969) (839879) 10.30 Bedtime Story* (1942) (79668) 12.00 The Gay Divorce* (1934) (42776) 2.00 The Vira Love** (1966) (22756) 4.00 They Flew Alone** (1941) (2276) 6.00 Kid Cop (1994) (98918) 7.30 (18 Ton Jen (2989) 8.00 Alstain Medicants Top Ten (2289) **8.00** Alstar MacLean's Night Watch (1995) (14754) **10.00** Seven (1995) (1710/821) **12.10** Leaving Las Vegas (1995) (155680) **2.05** Donor Unknown (1995) (409715) **3.40 - 6.00** In the **M**outh of Madness (1995)

Sky Movies Gold 3.87 Myore S. GOLO.

1,5404289. **6.00** Mentories of Me. (1988) (3449289. **8.00** Big Town (1987) (344734). **10.00** Monkey Shires Experiment in Feet (1988) (2829173). **11.55**Frantic (1988) (8867269. **1.55** All That Jazz (1979) (1,641241). **4.00** The Matchmaler. (1988) (5716319). **5.40** Chose Bravo

8.00 The A Team (33/2/92) 9.00 Tour of Duty (3332956) 10.00 Red Stree Di-aries (8735395) 10.45 Films Friday aries (8735395) 10.45 Films Friday hight Battes The Rattle (1994) (799) 660) 12.45 Films Troma - Alter the Publ Sql Fattukinnan NYPD (1991) (5425135) 2.45 Italian Simpping Housewives (10073020) 3.00 Tour of Duty (9435241) 4.00 The Maio (1640151) 4.30 The Head (5141390) 5.00 - 6.00 The Alleam (9420176)

5.00 - 6.00 The A-learn (\$4.20176).

Discovery Channel
4.00 Bush Trucket Main (\$575754) 4.30
Frightine (\$57576) 6.00 Legends of the killer Shark (\$759013) 7.00 Mysterious World (\$65682) 7.30 Disease (\$573647) 8.00 Juliasvica (\$335666) 9.00 Forensic Determines (\$305802) 8.00 Forensic Determines (\$305802) 8.00 Forensic Determines (\$305802) 9.00 Foreign Detections (3.0980) 10.00 Americal Entections (3.0960) 10.30 Medical Detections (3.09600) 11.00 Weapons of Wai (17.27666) 12.00 Best of British (17.27666) 10.0 Desiste (3.175,000) 1.30 Beyond 3000 (3.199667) 2.00 Close

CHOICE

Spy Hard (7.05pm Sky Movies Screen 1) Over the past decade or so, Leslie Nielsen has proved such a master of slapstick because his face never betrays that he thinks what's happening to him is funny. He brings that skill to this hit-and-miss espionage spoof, as agent Steele, who teams up with glamorous KGB operative (Nicolette Sheridan) to foil an evil genius.

Sky 1
6.00 Moming Glory (858937) 9.00 Ho6.00 Moming Glory (858937) 9.00 Ho6.01 (1327) 10.00 Another World
(48940) 11.00 Days of Our Lives
(35376) 12.00 The Oprah Wintrey
Show (84579) 1.00 Geraldo (93227)
2.00 Sally Jess Raphael (92173) 3.00
Jenn; Jones (36550) 4.00 The Oprah
Wintrey Show (69735) 5.00 Star TrelVoyoper (7450) 6.00 Mamed with Children
(3395) 7.00 The Simpsons (8111)
7.30 Real TV (9579) 8.00 Highlander
(2709) 9.00 Walker, Texas Fanger
(2009) 11.00 Star TrelVoyager
(5680) 12.00 Late Show with David
Letterman (93003), 1.00 In the Heat of man (93003). 100 in the Heat of the Night (86852) **2.00 - 7.00** Long Play (4496574)

Sky Sports 1 7,00 World Windsuffing (87753), 7,30 World Wresting Federation Superstars (6660) 8,30 Furbol Muricial (93840). 9,00 Racing News (84192), 9,30 Aero-bics - Oz Style (29753) 10,00 Boxing -Fights of 97 (125753) 1,00 Scottish Fights of 97 (723753) 1.00 Scottish Football Cettle v Rangers (5225173). 4.30 Trans World Sport (51666) 5.30 Gillette World Sport Special (2444). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (60460). 7.00 International Crickel Australia v South Africa (970598). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (40173) 11.00 Hold the Bock Page (53773) 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (5983) 1.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (25060). 3.00 Scottish Football Cettle v Rangers (98606) 5.00 ball Celtic v Rangers (96609), **5.00** - **6.00** Hold the Back, Page (38512).

Sky Sports 2
7x00 Aerobics - Oz Style (56,3444)
7x30 World of Saling (5653579) 8,00
Racing News (965788) 8,30 Anging
Masters (9825655) 9,30 Scottish Football Heart of Midlothian v Hibernian
(7651666) 11,00 Goals and Bloopers
(6977366) 12,30 International Table Tennis (6972685) 2,30 St Prime

(5744043). 3.00 Rebel Sports (5039192). 4.00 High 5 (5735395). 4.30 Eureme Sport (5731579). 5.00 Darts Pars World Championships (3913227). 11.00 High 5 (5059956). 11.30 Gillette World Sport Special (7271937). 12.00 Scotish Football Celtic. v Rangers (7781319). 2.00 Ex-treme Sport (6058777). 2.30 NHL Pow-er Week (5060512). 3.00 Martin Fishing (816864). 3.30 Sports Unimited (6141319). 430 High 5 (8817593). 5.00 - 6.00 Trans World Sport (2973715).

Sky Sports 3 12.00 International Crucket (964,37531) 3.00 Trans World Sport (91277550) 4.00 World Sport Special (76552573). 4.30 NHL Power Week (66401173) 4.30 NRL POWER WEEK (60401773). 5.30 Andersen Consulting Finals Preview (54152717) 6.00 NBA New York v Orlando (109879371, 8.00 Scottish League Football Celbs v Rangers (10982482), 10.00 WWF Wrestling Rew (91276821). 12.00 Close.

Eurosport 730 Rally [91956] 8.00 Footbell (63636), 10.00 Four Wheel Drive (33444), 10.30 Rally (75444), 11.00 Ski Jumping (70711) 1.00 Mighty Man (13192) 2.00 ice Hockey (430260). 4.30 Football (66918) 6.30 ice Hockey (23598) 8.30 Broing (72598), 8.30 Raily (10983) 10.00 Bowling (75969) 11.00 Funboard (98669), 12.00 Raily (88222), 12.30 Close,

UK Gold 7.00 Nineteenth Hole (2389111), 7.35 Neighbours (5645111), 8.00 Cross-roads (6913173), 8.25 EastEnders (3262395), 9.00 The Bill (5308005). **9.30** Howards Way (5749686), **10.00** Bless This House (7809227) **10.30** The Sullivars (5304289) **11.00** Boon 199235311 12.00 Crossroads (52696821). 12.25 Neighbours (52603208). 12.55 EastEnders

(8418640) 1.30 Sylves (7695260). 2.10 keeping Up Appearances (9787598). 2.50 Last of the Summer Wine (3492802): 2.30 The Bill (4599685) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (4354604). 5.05 EastEnders (2775550): 5.40 Bob's Full House (9914260). 6.25 Thai's Show-business (7742531). 7.00 Last of the Summer Wine (1308482): 7.40 Are You Being Served? (9382260). 8.20 Citizen Smith (6882937): 9.00 New to Gold Dad's Army (1007024): 8.40 Aul Wiederschen, Pel (79402208). 10.45 The Cornor Simp Presents... (9885289). 11.30 Alas Smith and Jones (3988840). 12.05 Chelmsford (23 (5870703). 12.35 Live at Jongleurs (55048). 10.5 The Equalice (1234357). 1.55 Miami Vice (8561845). 2.45 - 7.00 Snopping at Night (73457203).

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Living
6.00 Tirry Living (775-325): 9.00 Living
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(822031-1: 10.10 Jerry Springer Uncut
(5394-82): 11.00 The young and the
Resiless (150873-1): 11.55 Mysteries,
Magic and Miracles (2016/037): 12.25
Jimmy's (93990-39): 1.00 Cheap Chic
(92170-3): 1.30 Tempesti (4727-127).
2.20 Ready Steady Cook (8889734)
3.00 Could it Be a Miracle?
(84874005): 4.30 Jerry Springer Show
(8214753): 5.00 Rotonda (554-4024).
5.50 Cheap Chic (24305-47). 6.20
Rescue 991 (5418024): 7.30 Mysteries,
Magic and Miracles (7052192): 8.00
Jerry Springer Uncut (3930960): 9.00 Jerry Springer Uncut (393/260) **9.00** Police Story (3940647). **11.00** The Sex Zone (3298192). **12.00** Close Live TV

6.00 Living Room Legends 6.30 Agony 7.00 Diata-Doc 7.15 Nation LIVE 7.30 The Fashion Show 8.00 Agony 8.30 Living Room Legends 9.00 Love Story 9.15 Nation LIVE 9.30 The Why Files? 19.00 Le Defector 10.30 Diata-Doc 19.45 Livis 5.00 Epoch Files? 16.00 Lie Detector 10.30 Dial-aDoc 10.45 Love Story 11.00 Revetations 11.30 Fale and Fortura 12.00 The
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Numbers in brackets are VideoPlus+® Codes
(T) = Teletext Subtitles (S) = Stereo

TV Guide by Peter Conchie

Not so long ago, tours to sidered only a few months ago. the West Indies were no more than exercises in damage limitation, where at times medical insurance appeared more essential than a bat. Times and the laws of cricket have changed however, and Derek Pringle says Michael Atherton's England team, who leave for the Caribbean tomorrow morning, have a realistic chance of

returning in April as

first two Tests.

winners - providing they

do not lose either of the

Unless you have unlimited wealth, or some serious firepower, the Caribbean is not the the kind of place to live out your dreams. But while many have come to conquer, few, particularly visiting cricket teams, have managed to leave as victors, and since 1968 only Australia and India have managed to beat the a formidable record and one Michael Atherton's side must now overcome, if they are at last to be considered amongst the Test-playing élite.

at least until this time next year, an opportunity to become the defining moment of Atherton's captaincy. Win, or at least draw, and England and their current genuine optimism. Lose heavily, and the inertia caused by yet another failure abroad will surely have to be tackled by a change in direction and leadership, an option Atherton himself con-

For England's captain, the situation promises to be far more tense than his last visit to these breezy isles four years ago. Then expectations were low, with a young England side and their fledgling captain travelling more in hope than conviction. This time, however, despite Ladbrokes making the West Indies 4-7 favourites (England are 7-2) for the series, the portents are good, despite Darren Gough's late withdrawal, a setback that should at least concentrate the minds of Andy Caddick and Dean Headley.

For one thing, Atherton is far more experienced (he has now captained England a year longer than it took him to attain an honours degree at Cambridge), and secondly, the West Indies are a weaker side, in some disarray after losing heavily in Pakistan.

Indeed, when England set off from Gatwick tomorrow bound for a fortnight's acclimatisation in Antigua, Atherton's men will have the best chance in two generations of breaching fortress Caribbean and winning the Wisden Trophy. West Indies on home soil. It is a prize not seen in England since Raymond Illingworth hoisted it aloft at The Oval, almost 30 years ago.

To accomplish that they must consistently achieve two With the Ashes out of reach, things: a first-innings total of at least 280 - Caribbean pitches the next few months represent rarely get better - and an ability to shackle and frustrate the West Indies batsman with disciplined bowling and ferocious fielding. It should help that leader can move forward with nine of the 16-strong party toured there last time and know the score, although with some players forewarned is not always necessarily forearmed.

What they must categorically not do is lose the first Test at Sabina Park in Kingston. Do not Shane Warne that held the that and those two ageing but experienced warhorses Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose (35 and 34 respectively) could well rouse themselves for one last hurrah. If they do, it could prove doubly disadvantageous. and instead of the two greener fast bowlers. Mervyn Dillon and Franklyn Rose, being put under pressure, they will get a far easier ride in the senior pair's slipstream.

Mind you, however well the pacemen bowl as a group, the recent laws on bouncer limitation mean they are unlikely to rival the menace of the fast bowling juggernauts of the past. Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, Colin Croft, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall and Patrick Patterson were all combined to formidable effect over the years, and with them operating session after session even the most unpromising situations were retrieved by their confidence-rupturing quick

England have several batsmen who play fast bowling well. Atherton has long found his best against the West Indies, and with Alec Stewart set to bat instead of keep - at least initially - he will have an opening partner capable of taking anything wayward with the new ball apart. Graham Thorpe, too, pulls and cuts well, and the home side may well have to resort to playing a leg-spinner, with Rawl Lewis the

leading contender. These days, with most pitches deader than they used to be, the bowlers need longer to bowl sides out, which means the batsmen tend to have to score their runs at a fair old lick, and why England's bowlers must be iron-willed in sticking to their length and line.

When Australia won in the Caribbean in April 1995, it was

key - Caribbean grounds are often too small for spinners to exert pressure - but the unstinting efforts of Australia's then second-choice seamers. Glenn Mc-Grath, Paul Reiffel and Brendon Julian, were all thrown in at the deep end following injuries to Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming, a situation coincidentally echoed by Gough's withdrawal a few days ago.

England can do likewise. providing Brian Lara does not take the game away from them as he did in the first two Tests four years ago when his pair of audacious run-a-ball centuries set up victory. Two down after two, and with the catastrophe of being bowled out for 46 in Trinidad to follow will surely have burned itself too deep into Atherton's memory to be repeated.

Currently troubled by what he sees as a plot to prevent him becoming captain. Lara is the one batsman on either side capable of total domination and of shaping the series. But while recent series have shown him to be fallible, his Test average against England is currently 91.94 - over twice as much as it is against other teams at 40.79. Pity the man who spills him in the gully early on.

Ironically, many believe - the selectors amongst them - that Lara would make a better captain than Walsh. Certainly Lara, captain of Trinidad since he was 20, hankers after the post and many feel if he were to be be appointed that his innate confidence might rub off on the rest of the team.

That the West Indies Cricket Board took the contrary view before the debacle in Pakistan has bought about much ferment, and the old inter-island rivalries, patched over during the glory days, are once again beginning to simmer, with Jamaica, home to the board's chairman, Pat Rousseau, as well as the current skipper, Walsh, attracting most of the Clearly not everyone can be

kept happy and although Walsh, ever the consummate professional, has stated he will play under any captain, the best way out might be to appoint someone like Jimmy Adams, although he too hails from Jamaica.

It is a rum old row and whichever way you look at it England's chances of a series victory could well be boosted by what looks to be an unavoidably controversial decision.



Chris Silverwood in the nets yesterday during his last session with the England A team at the Gymkhana Cricket Club in Nairobi Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR WEST INDIES TOUR

Mike Atherton (Lancs)

(captain) Age 29, Tests 73. Nasser Hussain (Essex) (vice-captain) Age 29, Tests 23. Mark Butcher (Surrey) Age 25, Tests 5. Andy Caddick (Somerset) Age 28, Tests 16 Ashley Cowan (Essex) Age 22, Tests 0. John Crawley (Lancs) Age 25, Tests 22. Robert Croft (Glamorgan) Age 27, Tests 10. Angus Fraser (Middlesex) Age 32, Tests 32. Dean Headley (Kent) Age 27, Tests 3. Adam Hollioake (Surrey) Age 26, Tests 2 Mark Ramprakash (Middx) Age 28, Tests 20. Chris Silverwood (Yorks) Age 22, Tests 1 Jack Russell (Gloucs) Age 34, Tests 49. Alec Stewart (Surrey) Age 34, Tests 69. Graham Thorpe (Surrey) Age 28, Tests 43. Phil Tufnell (Middlesex) Age 31, Tests 28.

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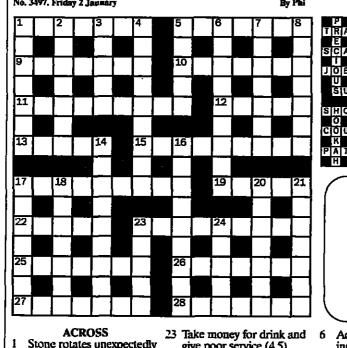
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TOUR ITINERARY 16-19 January v Jamaica Under-23 (Four days); 22-25 January v Jamaica (Four days); 29 January-2 February First Test (Jamalca): 6-9 February Four-day match (Trinidad and Tobago); 13-17 February Second Test (Trinidad and Tobago); 21-23 February Three-day match (Guyana); 27 February-3 March Third Test (Guyana); 7-9 March Three-day match (Barbados); 12-16 March Fourth Test (Barbados); 20-24 March Fifth Test (Antigua); 27 March v Vice Chancellor's XI (Barbados) (One day); 29 March First one-day international (Barbados); 1 April Second oneday international (St Lucia): 4 April Third one-day international (St Vincent); 5 April Fourth one-day international (St Vincent); 8 April Fifth one day international (Trinidad and Tobago).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- Bird associated with main
- area of Wales (7) Container is imported by
- 10 Ideal that brings some of
- you to piano-lessons (7)
 11 Town girl's manner of speaking (9)
 12 Second supplier of tickets
- is reliable (5) 13 Jerks line into points (5) 15 Involve child with story
- about Tom? (9) 17 Player really paid for stir- 3
- ring up a rush team (9) 19 Type of leather affected by
- sound (5)
 22 River runs hard in Spain
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of choice (7)

Once again started everything in a rush (7)

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- region (7) Reverse part of formal
- ent in poet I had translated

5 Cheek, lip or neck? (5)

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26 Piece from the French, out Australia with Australian 27 Snack for cricket teams (7) 8 One almost caught girl (7) 28 Questionable American

14 Do some umpiring across part of America (9) 16 Penny salary is inadequate?

There'll be no shift in it (9) 17 Possibly mass start to rally

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book I have (7)
"No longer with us" incorporated in revised text (7) Goddess and Queen appar- 23 Group is setting up loca-

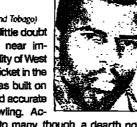
24 Hose supplies no end of squirt (5)

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DEREK PRINGLE'S FOUR TO FOLLOW THIS WINTER

Campbell has set

Mervyn Dillon (Trinidad and Tobaso) There is little doubt that the near impregnability of West indies cricket in the 1980s was built on iethal and accurate



fast bowling. According to many, though, a dearth now threatens, or it would do had bowlers like Franklyn Rose and Mervyn Dillon not happened along. But while both have paca, it is the 23-year old Dillon who really looks like one out of the old mould.

As you would expect from someone measuring 6ft 6in tall, he extracts plenty of bounce with his seamers and cutters. He is aggressive, too, and while others faltered on the bare pitch in Karachi, where West Indies lost their third Test in a row. Dillon took 5 for 111.

England, too, received a taster in Sharjah, where he bounced out Adam Hollioake and Nick Knight. Given a freer reign in the Tests, we may once again hear the traditional thud of Carlobean "chin music". England's batsmen have been warned.



about emulating him. Once a carefree strokeplayer, the 27year-old opener is now content simply to anchor the innings and bat all day. According to his home crowd at the Kensington Oval, wild donkeys are easier to remove once he is set at the crease.

It is just as well, without his long gritty innings - he faced 690 balls in the threematch series as compared to the next highest of 280 by the wicketkeeper David Williams - West Indies would have

lost even more heavily in Pakistan. He does have weaknesses and a propensity to keep his weight on the back foot make him vulnerable to the swincing ball early on. He is also a compulsive hooker, which although providing a genuine line of enquiry for bowlers, can also prove expensive on the Caribbean's tiny grounds.

Headley Announced himself during the summer against Australia with a flurry of wick-

ets at Old Trafford,

where he showed a natural aptitude for dismissing left-handers; a useful knack as the West indies may use as many as four

A skiddy bowler, Headley may well take the new ball, although not in Jamaica, where he is already apprehensive over the

reception that will greet him as he returns to the island that spawned his famous grandfather, George, as well as his father, Ron. England cannot afford nervous starters in what will undentably be the most important Test of the series.

Nearly 28, Headley has much catching up to do if he is to have a fulfilling Test career. A fine fielder, a wandering mind and a fragile body are all that hold him back. As long as he stays fit and keeps his no-ball count to a minimum, any cheap libes from the Sabina Park crowd will soon be forgotten.

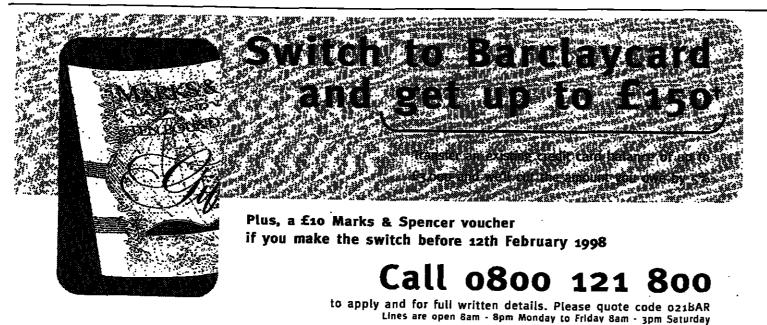
Hollioake Passed over as one-day captain after leading England to victory in Sharjah, will only have made Adam Hol-

lioake doubly determined to carve a role for himself at Test

A batsman with more bottle than finesse - not a bad way round for things to be when facing the West Indies - it may be Hollioake's bowling that helps clinch

him the highly contested No 6 spot. Uniess England's bowling is given variety by making Alec Stewart keep wicket (not in plan A apparently), Hollioake's medium-pace mix of swing, cutters and slower balls may prove the perfect foil with which to tempt and taunt the West Indian strokeplayers into injudicious risk-

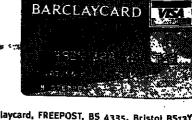
A natural optimist, he wants to be England's answer to Steve Waugh. If he performs half as well, his team will at last have an all-rounder worthy of a long-term place.



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